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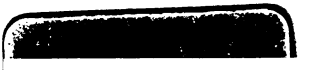
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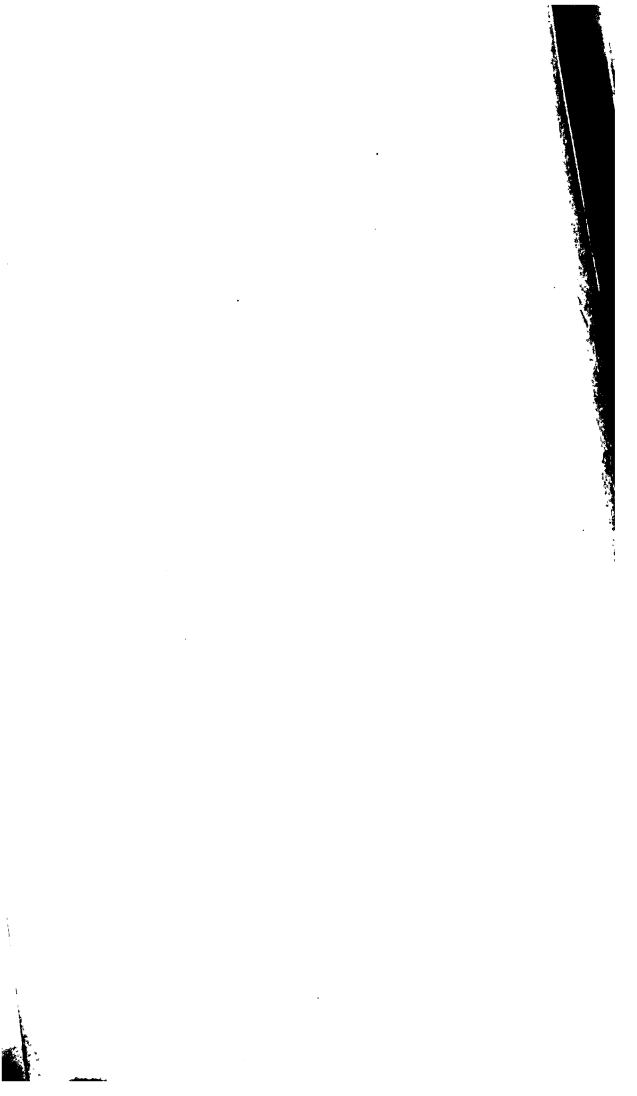
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THE BOOK

OF

READY-MADE SPEECHES,

CONTAINING

EXAMPLES

ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

LOYALTY, BISHOP AND CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE,
THE ARMY, NAVY, AND THE VOLUNTEERS,
POLITICAL, FORENSIC, AND ELECTIONEERING,
RAILWAYS, THE DRAMA, FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, LOCAL
DOMESTIC, WEDDINGS, CHRISTENINGS AND BIRTHDAYS,
CONVIVIAL, RACE AND REGATTA DINNERS,
OPENING OF INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS AND WORKING MEN'S
CLUBS, THE EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT,
&c. &c.

With Appropriate Quotations, Toasts and Sentiments, &c.

No glass renders a man's form or likeness so true as his speech.
BEN JONSON.

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

London:
REEVES AND TURNER,
196, STRAND.

1868.

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LONDON:
WILLIAM BOWDEN, PRINTER, 23, RED LION STREET, HOLBORN, W.C.

PREFACE.

THE following circumstance gave rise to the publication of this collection of "Ready-made Speeches." While pursuing my avocation of a provincial bookseller, a French gentleman entering my shop addressed me thus, "Sir, I want a little English speaker book." I placed in his hands a copy of "Enfield's Speaker," whereupon he said, "No! no! no! Sir, that is not what I want: I want the little book of English Speeches." I observed that Enfield's was one of the most popular "Speakers," but that I had Mavor's, Knowles's, Brewer's, and a variety of others of a similar character, to which he replied, "No! no! no! excuse me, I want the book of English Speeches already made to hand, because for example, I have to go because I am invited to the English wedding to morrow,—that is, the next day after that, to the wedding of my friend the English lady that spent a great portion of

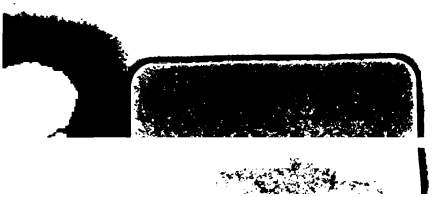
her life in my native town, which is in France—she marry the English gentleman who is also my friend—all will be grand—I shall be called on to say something, to speak—when my health is what you call drunk—then I must say the speech, and I must say something about the newly married couple—to wish joy—happiness, and all that sort of thing—something what is pretty nice funny—make the young folks laugh—flatter my young friends that is married—and all that; you understand—comprendre, eh?" I confessed that I did not know of such a work in the English language; there were many "Letter Writers" to give persons an idea of wording a letter, "Pulpit Helps" in the shape of skeleton sermons for the instruction of young clergymen; but as to "Ready-made Speeches," except ponderous political ones, I did not think that such a work existed. He expressed his surprise, adding, that he had seen such books in his own and the German (Allemand) language. "It is surprise verymuch." He further added, that he had been into every bookseller's shop in the town but that no one seemed to understand what he did really want so well as I did. I acknowledged the compliment, and being then and there struck

with the "idea," promised, as I knew of no such work, and having been frequently asked for the same thing before, that I would write and compile one by the time he came to England again —he having observed, during our conversation, that most likely he should have to come in another year for the "christening," and then he should have to say something else, "make another speech." Taking the hint as above, I have written and compiled the Book of Ready-Made-Speeches which I now present to the English public, and which is intended simply to supply hints to persons who are called upon to make a speech, and who feel themselves unable, from the want of practice, to express their thoughts in appropriate language.

In writing and compiling this little work, I have purposely abstained from any pompous display, either in the thoughts or style. The idea of the publication was hastily conceived, and it was as hastily executed, during the intervals snatched from an active business life, and doubtless it will be found deficient in that perspicuous arrangement with which the taste and judgment of a practised literary hand would have embellished it, the absence of which will


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THE BOOK
OF
ADY MADE SPEECHES
CONTAINING
100
EXAMPLES
OF THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF
LOYALTY, HUMOUR, GRATITUDE, PATHOS,
FOR ARMOURY & RIFLE VOLUNTEER
POLITICAL, TOAST, MASS & ELECTION MEETING
& WAYS, THE DRAMA, TRADE SOCIETIES, LOCAL
MUSIC, POETRY & OTHER SOCIETIES, CLUBS
CONVIVIAL, MASONIC & ODDFELLOWS
MEETINGS OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYERS & WORKMEN
CLUBS, THE FAMILY CIRCLE, SOCIAL
&C. &C.
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LOYAL.

THE QUEEN,
THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

THE QUEEN,
AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

LOYAL TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS,
WITH
APPROPRIATE POETICAL QUOTATIONS.

Toast. "THE QUEEN." *The Chairman.*

GENTLEMEN.—The first toast I shall have the honour to offer to your notice, is one that always takes precedence of all others, and one the proposing of which is at all times a pleasing duty for a chairman to perform, knowing the hearty response it is sure to meet with in an assembly of loyal and dutiful Englishmen.

" Be England what she will,
With all her faults she is my country still."—*Churchill.*

Gentlemen, Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria has ever been a favourite with Englishmen; and they have many causes to be proud of her—God bless her! She has ruled this nation with a silken cord, and is beloved by the whole of her subjects—the high and low, the rich and poor.

" England is safe, if true within itself."—*Shakspeare.*

Gentlemen, as a monarch her conduct has been most exemplary; as a Queen, a pattern worthy of imitation by all nations through all ages. We have seen her as a maiden, a wife, a mother, and a widow, and in each of those characters she has won our esteem and respect, and we have ever been proud as Englishmen to call her "Ours." As a maiden, a wife, and a mother, she has in each of life's various phases set a pattern well worthy of imitation, and we have all been anxious that our daughters might be seen walking in the path, so beautiful and heaven-like, pursued by her most Gracious Majesty.

"'Tis better to have loved and lost,
Than never to have loved at all."
Tennyson—IN MEMORIAM.

Gentlemen, proud and happy must be the nation that is governed by such a monarch! Happy must be the people who live in these peaceful times. The time has been, and that well within the memory of some of the oldest of those now assembled, when the nation was not so prosperous, the people not so happy. The country has at times been plunged into expensive and sanguinary wars, but we live now at peace and goodwill with the whole of the world. I therefore give you "The Health of the Queen," who reigns in the hearts of all her subjects.

"England! with all thy faults, I love thee still—
My country! and while yet a nook is left,
Where English minds and manners may be found,
Shall be constrain'd to love thee."—*Cowper.*

The Queen; and may she ever merit the esteem and love of her people.

"The Queen."

Gentlemen.—I have waited until I saw your glasses charged, to propose to you the first toast of the evening.

As loyal Englishmen we hail with delight every festive gathering that affords us the opportunity of doing honour to that noble Lady who has ruled and does rule these realms with so much wisdom and justice, and who, from her domestic virtues and blameless life, has endeared herself alike to all owning her sway.

Gentlemen, more words would be superfluous, I therefore at once give you "The Queen."

Health to the Queen; prosperity to the people; and may the ministry direct their endeavours to the public good rather than engage in party distinctions.

"The Queen.

Mr. Vice and Gentlemen.—Looking at the happy faces around me, I think I may safely aver, that the toast I am about to propose will meet with general approbation. Custom has now so sanctioned the course I adopt, that for a meeting of Englishmen to take place for the purposes of social enjoyment, without first drinking the Queen's health, would be strange indeed. I therefore ask you at once to charge your glasses and join me in a bumper toast, "To Her Majesty the Queen."

The Queen; and may true Britons never be without her likeness in their pockets.

The Queen; may she stand as the oak, and her enemies fall as the leaves.

Toast.—By the Chairman or the Vice-Chair.

"THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES."

GENTLEMEN.—The next toast on the programme of the day is one which I am sure you, as Englishmen, will do honour to—a toast that forms a natural sequence to the one you have just drank with so much enthusiasm. "The Prince and Princess of Wales" will, I am sure, meet at your hands that hearty response which always follows the loyal toasts offered at all entertainments and social gatherings of a kindred character to this.

The Prince and Princess of Wales; and may they live long and be happy.

Gentlemen.—The Prince of Wales is the worthy son of a worthy Father,—"Albert the Good." The young and amiable Princess of Wales has won for herself the lasting respect of all classes of the English nation, and may they both long continue to enjoy every happiness, and the well-merited respect of all Englishmen.

Prosperity; and may it ever be the rising-sun of England.

Gentlemen.—May the day be long distanced when, in the common course of nature, the Prince will be called upon to reign over us. But the day, come it will and come it must, when his worthy and royal Mother will be removed from us, and the Prince of Wales will be then the King of "our tight little Island." May he and his Princess rule as well and as wisely as the Queen Her Most Gracious Majesty and her ever lamented royal partner the Prince Albert.

"Prince and Princess of Wales."

Gentlemen.—My duty now is to propose for the next toast the health of a royal Prince and Princess, standing next in succession to the crown. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales having been born amongst us assumes, and rightly so, the position of the first gentleman in England, and who is there that has watched his career that dare say he does not nobly sustain that character? What Englishman is there whose heart does not warm at the mention of Royal Edward's name? As heir-apparent he deserves the strong and lasting love characteristic of the English. Reared under the careful guidance of a wise and enlightened Prince—his noble Father—he grew into manhood, and with him grew all the graces that adorn humanity; and though the day may be long distant ere he will be called on to fill his royal Mother's place on the throne of England, we all know that, come when it may, our future King will carry with him all the love and duty of his subjects.

To the Royal Lady the Princess of Wales, born of a long line of kings, and heiress of their virtues, the loved and loving wife of Prince Edward, and mother of his children, sharing with her husband the affection of all true Englishmen, we wish long life and happiness. And now, Gentlemen, a bumper toast to their "Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales."

May the future King of England be as virtuous as his Father.

The Prince and Princess of Wales; and when Providence in the course of nature shall place them on the throne, may their minds be found imbued with those liberal sentiments calculated to make the nation happy.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE QUEEN, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."

GENTLEMEN.—As loyal and dutiful Englishmen the first toast of the day will be—"Our Queen, Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;" and it affords me a great deal of pleasure in proposing the same for your consideration, well knowing how congenial that toast is to the feelings of Englishmen.

Britons in Unity, and Unity in Britain.

GENTLEMEN.—Little need be said by me in respect to the toast I have the honour to propose to you, the very many virtues possessed by her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the popularity and general esteem in which the Prince and Princess of Wales are held by all loyal and dutiful Englishmen being well known to you all; and, with regard to the rest of the Royal Family, you are all conversant with the virtues of our Queen's Happy Family. The Prince has always taken a deep interest in the Volunteer movement; and I only regret that his Royal Highness is not present upon this occasion. Had he been here he would have been highly gratified by the sight which he would have seen, and by the efficient manner in which the ———— Volunteers went through the various evolutions they were called on to perform by Captain ————.

Britain; may the land of our nativity be ever the abode of freedom, and the birthplace of heroes.

A lasting peace or an honourable war.

A long cord and a strong cord to those who make discord.

"THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN.—A hint has just been given me to "get on," and as I see many singing faces around me whose "souls are in arms and eager for the fray," I think it will be the better course to couple the remaining branches of the Royal Family together in one toast as "The Rest of the Royal Family, God bless them."

A lasting cement to all contending powers.

"THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."

GENTLEMEN.—There are other members of our Royal Family not standing so prominently forward as the objects of my last toast, but none the less deserving of our best love and wishes, but as time is of import to us and we have much to get through, I hope I shall not be declared disloyal if I connect them all together under one head, as "The remaining branches of the Royal Family, long life to them."

Confusion to all those who attempt to disunite the interests of our country.

English oak and British valour.

England for ever; the land, boys, we live in.

Freedom to those who dare contend for it.

A speedy export to all the enemies of Britain, without a drawback.

An Englishman's birthright: trial by jury.

Britain's rights; and may they never be invaded by foreigners.

Speech of the Mayor of Portsmouth at the Visit of the French Fleet, Sept. 1, 1865.

GENTLEMEN.—I rise to ask your kind attention while I give you the first toast—a toast which I shall have the honour of giving you for the first time in my life; and I can say, without any hesitation, it affords me greater pleasure than any other I shall have the honour of giving you, for reasons I shall express to you in a few words. The toast is—"The Health of the Emperor of the French." Gentlemen, I knew the enthusiasm and warmth with which the mention of that toast would be received; but before I give it you in the usual terms, I desire first to express to you the gratification with which we have received the visit of the French fleet to these shores. Gentlemen, it marks an era in the history of our country, and I do not hesitate to say that those feelings have been gradually growing and increasing; and have, by these mutual visits on both sides of the Channel, tended to strengthen and cement that kindly and brotherly feeling which exists between us. It is not very long ago that the Emperor said at Bordeaux that "the Empire is peace;" and when he has permitted those interchanges of good feeling and these visits that have recently taken place, it is one of the many proofs we have received of his loyalty to the British nation. Gentlemen, that magnificent fleet we see assembled at Spithead indicates something more than an every-day occurrence; it indicates the warmth of that friendship which exists between the two countries; it shows that whereas in times past we were at enmity with each other, now we are in the warmest bonds of friendship. Gentlemen,

when I passed through the fleet at Spithead the day before yesterday, and tendered my welcome on the part of the inhabitants of the port to the admirals and officers of the French fleet, I confess I was struck with the magnitude of the vessels and the immense power they possessed. That fleet has assembled there not even in defence, nor in defiance; but it is simply there, as I understand, to show to the world at large its feelings of peace. I feel I am not equal to the occasion; I feel that I cannot express, either on behalf of the inhabitants of the town or the people at large, the pleasure they feel at being honoured by the visit on this occasion. Gentlemen, we are bound to each other by ties of mutual interest—ties not to be forgotten as a matter of business; but we are bound together by the still greater and stronger tie of common loyalty and brotherhood, and a desire to promote civilisation and liberty throughout the world. Gentlemen, officers of the French fleet, I bid you welcome to Portsmouth, I bid you welcome to the shores of England; and I can only say that I am but feebly expressing the pleasure and joy with which we receive you on these shores. I dare not trust myself to say more on this occasion. I have feebly attempted to emulate the magnificent reception with which our officers and fleet were greeted at Cherbourg and Brest; and, if we cannot give you the same magnificent reception, we can offer you equally warm hearts, and as cordially wish you God speed. Long may this cordiality continue; and, strong as our arms have been when at enmity with each other, surely they can be equally strong in the grasp of friendship. I am sorry I am not capable of expressing these sentiments in the French language, but I offer them from my heart, and on behalf of the

English people. Gentlemen, I call on you to drink "The Health of the Emperor."

The toast was enthusiastically received, and during the cheers which prevailed the Mayor shook hands with the Minister of Marine and the Vice-Admiral. The band played "Partant pour la Syrie," and a royal salute of 21 guns was fired, the French flag being at the same time hoisted at the dockyard.

Speech by the Mayor of Portsmouth in proposing the Health of the Queen on the occasion of the Visit of the French Fleet at Portsmouth, Sept. 1st, 1865.

GENTLEMEN.—I now have to give you a toast to which I am somewhat more accustomed, and the mere mention of which will, I am sure, be sufficient to raise, not only in the hearts of all Englishmen, but of all Frenchmen, the warmest enthusiasm. I believe you will receive the next toast with the same cordiality and the same warmth as you have received the last, because it relates to the Sovereign of our country, "Her Majesty the Queen." There cannot be a doubt that her most gracious Majesty views with the greatest pleasure these visits and intercommunications, and that she rejoices to see the subjects of her nation receive with friendship those of the Emperor. In England the mere mention of the name of the Queen is sufficient to arouse our warmest enthusiasm. It is perfectly unnecessary and superfluous to enlarge on the eminent advantages we enjoy as a people under the benign reign and influence of her to whom we are indebted for that noble example she sets in every position she fills, whether as Queen, mother, or ordinary member of society. With her Majesty's name I propose to

couple "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." May the day be far off when the Prince of Wales may reign as King of England; but when the day arrives when he shall be called on to fill the position his mother so magnificently fills, then may the hopes and prayers of England ascend to Heaven that he may reign over us with the same purity and excellence, and set us the same example as her Majesty. This is a toast which I know will be commended to your heartiest consideration. It needs no recommendation from me; the mere mention of it is sufficient to commend it to your heartiest reception.

The toast having been cordially drunk, the "National Anthem" was played by the band.

Here's a health unto her Majesty,
Confusion to her enemies,
And he that will not pledge her health,
I wish him neither wit nor wealth,
Nor yet a rope to hang himself.

May the Queen never want health nor her subjects obedience.

May the Queen and her subjects reign in each others hearts by love.

The Prince and Princess of Wales: may they be as much distinguished for their virtues as their high birth.

Great Britain's rising stars: the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Queen—may she always exercise the prerogative with which she is invested for the peace and happiness of her people.

THE CHURCH,

THE BISHOP AND CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE.

"THE CHURCH, AND THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE."

GENTLEMEN.—Under circumstances of great diffidence I rise to propose the next toast. I had hoped it would have fallen into hands abler than mine to do justice to such a cause. This is neither the time nor place to treat on matters of religion, and I will not trench on such tender ground; but we can in all times and in all places shew our love and veneration for that church before whose font we were christened in earliest childhood, at whose altar we have knelt, and within whose pale we hope to die. For that sacred edifice, linked as it is with all that is dear to home and childhood, every man must feel a holy love; what then for her sons, who in perfect abnegation of self go forth to teach and lead us to happiness? Shall not the clergy of our much-loved church receive at our hands the thanks they so well deserve? Join me, then, heartily in this toast,—"The Church, and the Bishop of the Diocese."

"THE CHURCH AND QUEEN."

"Here's a health to old England, the Queen, and the Church,
May all plotting contrivers be left in the lurch,
May England's brave monarch fight for our just cause,
Establish true peace, our religion, and laws."

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE BISHOP AND CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE."

The Chairman, in proposing the next toast, viz., "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," would remark that, anxious as he was at all times to render respect to the clergy of the established church, he felt still more desirous upon the present occasion, seeing as he did such a numerous and respectable body of persons assembled together to celebrate the anniversary of that very excellent society ———. He believed that at no time in his memory did the clergy of the church stand so high as at the present moment. In other countries quite a different state of things was to be seen. There they might see clergy without influence, and clergy who had no power to assuage the differences which were continually arising and increasing from day to day in the religion of their country. But the qualities which marked the members of the church of this country amounted to a recognition of the principles upon which the church was founded, viz., on private judgment, and not on coercion. Each minister was called upon, in his own sphere, to exercise his influence in promoting works of benevolence, and in adding to the general welfare and happiness of all around him. The clergy, as a body, were daily giving bright examples of those good qualities by which they were distinguished; and he should, therefore, ask the company to drink the toast he had proposed to them. With the toast he would couple the health of one who was at all times ready to do acts of kindness to those around him, viz., the chaplain of the ——— Society and the vicar of the town of ———.

"The union of the Church and State is not to make the Church *political*, but the State *religious*."—*Lord Eldon.*

GENTLEMEN.—You have now to withdraw your minds from the thoughts inspired by some previous toasts and speeches. I have not to speak to you of martial deeds by sea or land, or of the triumphs of civil statesmanship, but to propose a toast which relates to a body of men who by their simple piety and pure doctrine, I believe in my conscience, have done as much or even more than any other class or profession in this kingdom for its general welfare. I will now conclude by proposing "His Grace the Archbishop of ——— and the Bishop and Clergy of this Diocese."

"Who builds a church to God, and not to fame,
Will never mark the marble with his name."—*Pope.*

The Rev. Vicar of ——— responded to the toast, and in doing so expressed a hope that the clergy of the Church of England were in every respect as exalted in character as the Chairman had represented them. He believed they were; and with regard to coercion, to which the Chairman had made some allusion, he had no hesitation in expressing his conviction that the clergy of the Church were as tolerant in their views as any other members of society. The rev. gentleman concluded by expressing his pleasure at finding that the great question—he meant the Church-rate question—was likely to be settled in the House of Parliament in a manner that would be satisfactory to all parties, so that they might be enabled to live in mutual charity and co-operation together.

"Fond fools
Promise themselves a name from building churches."
—*Randolph.*

"Some to church repair,
Not for the doctrine, but the music there."—*Pope.*

THE ARMY AND NAVY,

COUPLED WITH

THE VOLUNTEERS, MILITIA, AND NAVAL RESERVE.

TOASTS—NAVAL AND MILITARY.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE ARMY."

GENTLEMEN.—My next toast in routine is "The Army,"—that phalanx of braves, to whom in a great measure we owe the liberties we now enjoy. No man can over-estimate the value of such an army as England is proud to possess. No man can read the past history of England without being astonished at the mighty deeds of her warriors. No Englishman can hear them mentioned without feeling his heart leap with gratitude to God who has so blessed his country. To mention names, when the roll of our heroes is almost endless, will be invidious; to mention acts of heroism and indomitable bravery would be equally so, for their name is legion. I must content myself then by asking you, Mr. Vice and Gentlemen, to join me in a bumper toast to that powerful branch of the service "The Army."

The British Army; may its distinguished characteristics always be, fortitude in the hour of disaster, courage in the hour of danger, and mercy in the hour of victory.

"The Navy."

Mr. Vice and Gentlemen.—I shall now propose to you for your next toast, "The Navy." I have lost no time in this, because as it has long been a moot point as to which branch of the service preference should be given, I hold that at least but little time should elapse between these two very important toasts. Do you wish me to say anything to you on behalf of our navy,—shall I breathe forth to you the names of her mighty heroes to inspire your zeal,—can I elicit your applause by whispering to you of Rooke, Blake, Hood, Howe, St. Vincent, Duncan, Nelson, Collingwood, Exmouth, Codrington, Cochrane, and Napier? No, I see by the light flashing from each eye as the roll of our naval heroes is called, England wants no reminder of the deep debt she owes her valiant sons, and no spur to do honour to their memory as often as occasion shall serve. Many changes have taken place of late years in the construction of ships; instead of "our wooden walls" we shall have to speak in future of "our iron-sides." But whether our ships are made of wood or iron, England's navy when called upon to protect our native shores will ever be found to consist of "hearts of oak." However you may alter the material for building ships, to meet the exigencies of the times, you cannot alter the material of our plucky English seamen—that will ever remain the true "Britannia metal," yet be found very difficult to *polish!* So Gentlemen rise, and join me in a bumper toast, the "Navy of England."

The tar that sticks like pitch to his duty.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE ARMY AND NAVY, COUPLED WITH THE VOLUNTEERS."

GENTLEMEN.—I have now the pleasure to propose to you "The Army and Navy." This is a toast always well received by Englishmen, and I have this year an addition to make to that time honoured toast, viz., "The Volunteers." I pride myself on belonging to the Government under whom the Volunteers were first established; for I believe they possess the hands and hearts that would always make England respected. As there is no member of either the Army or Navy present, I will couple with the toast a gentleman who is a great supporter of the Volunteers, and one who has taken every necessary step to make himself acquainted with the duties of a volunteer and an officer, viz., Mr. ———.

"Be Britain still to Britain true,
Amang oursels united;
For never but by British hands,
Maun British wrangs be righted."—*Burns.*

"THE NAVY, COUPLED WITH ITS VOLUNTEER RESERVE."

GENTLEMEN.—As a matter of routine it is customary after the Army has been toasted to toast the Navy, but with your leave I will supplement it with the Naval Reserve.

Firstly, because it will enable us to gain time, and secondly, because the reserve force being drawn chiefly from our mercantile marine, is so closely a twin sister that I do not think the most fastidious *Salt of the Line* would find fault with this arrangement.

Our toast then shall be, "The Navy and its Volunteer Reserve."

We all know the value our Navy is to us, and how our sea-girt isle, under the ægis of such a force, laughs at invasion. Now though perhaps the hours of our Wooden Walls are numbered, and the poetry that stirred our seamen of old is vanishing from view, still the lion hearts remain to tread the decks, and "guard from foes our native land." Long may it be ere our naval reserve is called out for active service; still, should it come, England will find every man "will do his duty," whether he be of the Royal Navy or the Reserve, and the flag that has braved a thousand years shall still remain unfurled defiant alike of the battle and the breeze. Gentlemen, "The Royal Navy and its Volunteer Reserve."

The British Navy—the world's check-string.

"THE ARMY, COUPLED WITH THE VOLUNTEERS."

GENTLEMEN.—I rise now with great pleasure to propose "The Army, coupled with the Volunteers." First, to that brave and glorious army of England, from whose heroic deeds have sprung the high and distinguished position this country holds amongst the nations of the earth, to that army which at all times and seasons in the hour of England's peril has poured out its blood like water for the honour and safety of the country. To that army, I say, our thanks are firstly due, not only for past but for present and future services, seeing that their duty is a constant one, and wherever danger is there will they be to confront it.

Secondly, our thanks are due to our Volunteers as an auxilliary to that army we owe so much to, and who I am sure in case of need will prove worthy

the name they bear, and able comrades of their brethren of the line. When, Gentlemen, we see so noble, so devoted a band straining their greatest energies to acquire mastery of their weapons; when we witness the result of these efforts as shown by the returns from the competitive meetings of the Volunteers, whether the piece be the rifle or the "loud-mouthed cannon," we can but rejoice and say, happy is the country that can boast such sons.

Gentlemen, "The Army, coupled with the Volunteers."

"It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country."—*Horace.*

RESPONSES.

"THE ARMY AND NAVY AND THE VOLUNTEERS."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I have the honour to rise to acknowledge, with thanks, the toast of "The Army," and I am glad to find that at all meetings of Englishmen the services of the British soldier are thoroughly appreciated. This causes him to be zealous in his duties, and to look lightly upon the fatigue and hardships of foreign service. The army of England I believe was never in a more efficient state than at the present time; and as I have ever been of opinion that the best way to be at peace is to be prepared for war, I hope and trust that our Government will ever maintain the British army in sufficient numbers and discipline to prevent a possibility of the latter.

"Peace rules the day, where reason rules the mind;"

and our illustrious poet, John Milton, has written,

"Peace hath her victories
No less renown'd than war."

I trust that we shall remain at peace; but should the dire necessity for war spring up, the British soldier will be found ever ready and willing to do his duty to his Queen and country. But,

> "War's a game, which, were their subjects wise,
> King's should not play at." *Cowper.*

Thanking you for the kind and enthusiastic manner in which you have proposed "the Army," I will say, may all the battles fought in liberty's cause be repaid with freedom and peace, for

> "It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe:
> For peace itself should not so dull a kingdom,
> But that defences, musters, preparations,
> Should be maintain'd, assembled, and collected,
> As were a war in expectation." *Shakspeare.*

Response.—"THE ARMY."

GENTLEMEN.—I beg to acknowledge the toast on behalf of the "Army," to which service I have the honour to belong. This city, in bygone times, has been always regarded as standing in the forefront of our national defences; and I can but regret that your noble Chairman had not been brought up as a soldier. What an able general the country has lost through his not adopting the army as a profession! No one would have shown so much justice and firmness in the consideration of military affairs as the noble Chairman, particularly in regard to that branch of the service to which his energies and talent would have so appropriately adapted him. But

> "A lucky chance, that oft decides the fate
> Of mighty monarchs,"

has ruled it otherwise. We must therefore be content; and as we cannot meet him in the field, or the camp, we shall at all times be happy to meet him in the grove,—the Grove of Peace! With regard to the British army, it may be said now to be at peace with all the world. But we cannot tell how long it may continue to be so; but should the contingency of war befal us, I feel sure that the Government would have a tower of strength in the army as at present constituted—a tower of strength far surpassing the towers of masonry which line the coast, however valuable these might be. The British soldier has lost none of the courage for which he has ever been famed, and England has cause to be proud of her army. I return my most sincere thanks for the manner in which you have done honour to the toast.

"'Tis the soldier's life
To have their balmy slumbers wak'd with strife."
Shakspeare.

Response.—"THE ARMY."

GENTLEMEN. — I have again the good fortune to respond for the army, which I have had on several previous occasions in this room. I have often spoken on military exploits; but far more peaceful and, in many respects, more agreeable times have come about, and whatever conduces to the happiness and prosperity of this country must always be most acceptable to the service to which I belong. It is not our wish to be engaged in wars; on the contrary, it is our business to try and avert the calamities of war; and if we can succeed in that respect, I flatter myself we perform our duty suc-

cessfully, and are as much entitled to the good opinion of our countrymen as if we performed our duty gallantly in the field of battle. But besides this, I trust I am not mistaken in supposing the inhabitants of the town of ——— have a real affection for peace, which can only be equalled by the horror they have for war. I am happy to find that the army is in no respect reduced, either in number or efficiency, and I feel persuaded that, while they have on this and many other occasions rested with their peaceful arms so agreeably, they will be on war's alarms prepared to grasp rifle and bayonet and do good service to their country should the hour of need arrive. But I hope it will be the good fortune of the army to do, as on this occasion, all their fighting with no other weapon than a good Sheffield made knife and fork, with nothing but plates ladened with the good things of this life to "cut at." I sincerely hope we may often have the honour of meeting in this room with the country, as at present, at peace. On behalf of the army I thank you all.

"Soldiers are perfect devils in their way;
When once they're raised, they're cursed hard to lay."
Gay.

May the brave soldier who never turned his back to the enemy, never have a friend to turn his back to him.

May the soldier never fall a sacrifice but to glory.

If the enemy's flotilla should come half-seas over,
May the bull-dogs of Britain salute them at Dover.

May the arms borne by a soldier never be used in a bad cause.

May the British soldier never turn his bayonet against his own countrymen.

Response.—"THE NAVY."

GENTLEMEN.—I have the honour on behalf of the navy to respond to that toast; and I can say with confidence that never was the navy of England in a more satisfactory state than at the present moment. God grant that it may never be called on to meet the foe; but it certainly has never been better prepared to do so than now. The vast sums cheerfully voted for the support of the navy are I believe now properly and judiciously expended, and a proof was given at the late meetings of the English and French navies at Portsmouth and Cherbourg that the Government has not been neglectful in providing for the defence of the country. As regards sailors, I can also assure you that the Admiralty have no difficulty in manning our fleets. In conclusion, I cannot agree with Mr. ——— that our excellent Chairman ought to have been brought up a soldier. I think that, judging from the great knowledge and experience which the worthy gentleman displayed in all that related to naval matters, he would have made a first-rate sailor.

"Remember now, when you meet your antagonist, do everything in a mild agreeable manner. Let your courage be as keen, but, at the same time, as polished, as your sword." *Sheridan.*

GENTLEMEN.—In returning thanks for the navy, I have to observe that when comparisons were made between the ships of England and those of France, a great deal was said about the slowness which England exhibited in bringing her navy forward. That was in reference to the new iron-cased vessels; but it should be remembered that these are only experimental ships, and have not yet been proved or

tried. They might be all very well, but they might prove like the knights of old, who, when cased in armour, and were once knocked down, could not get up again. France never did beat England in ships, ours always were superior to theirs—our officers and men of other days could always compete with theirs; and it is not for those of the present day to say what they could do with their present navy, but I hope the country will never have cause to be ashamed of them.

The British navy; may it ever sail on a sea of glory, and, wafted by the gales of prosperity, guided by the compass of honour, enter the port of victory.

The foes well tarred, and our tars well feathered.

May our officers and tars be valiant and brave,
And our admirals loyal and true.
May they die by their guns, Britain's rights to maintain,
And fight for the honour of British true blue.

All those who have fought and bled for great Britain.
All hearty messmates; and may they never want a mess or a mate.

Britain's pride and the world's wonder: her navy.

Commerce and trade always protected,
And British seamen never neglected.

England's castles: her men of war.

England: the anchor of hope of the world.

Good ships, fair winds, and brave seamen.

Response.—THE VOLUNTEERS.

GENTLEMEN.—On rising to return thanks for the Volunteers, I have to remark that each of the gentlemen who has returned thanks for the army and navy has said that the respective services were never in a better state of efficiency. I stand forward to supplement the toast by returning thanks for a very large and important body of men, no inconsiderable portion of whom are present at this festive board. The army and navy were always looked upon as the defenders of our coast and our soil, and it is no small encouragement and compliment to the Volunteers that they should form a supplement to that very long standing toast, "The Army and Navy of England." For my part I have the most implicit confidence in the Volunteers, and I am sure the country generally has, and that if their services should be required in defence of their country, they will not disappoint expectation. Ever since I have been associated with the Volunteers I have watched the 0th ————, I have watched my own men from their formation to the period when they have almost arrived at perfection, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing my satisfaction at the admirable drill and effective movements of the 0th ————; and my gallant friend on my right (Captain ————) takes especial interest in all that appertains to their efficiency. I am not at all surprised to witness the efficiency of the 0th ————, seeing that they are so well officered. We are met to-day to celebrate a great event, which cradled the House of Commons of this country, and from which our liberties take their rise; and can you be surprised that the 0th ———— should go to drill on that hallowed

ground which gave us our liberties? The preceding speakers have claimed the excellent Chairman for the Army and Navy, and each has put in a claim for him to rank with them, but I can inform those gentlemen who represented the Army and Navy, that they are "a day behind the fair," for the worthy and honourable Chairman is claimed for ————, and that claim is allowed for the Volunteers. He is a distinguished officer of the ——th, ———— Corps. So let them be content that though they cannot have him for the regular service they have got him for a Volunteer.

"ARMY AND NAVY AND VOLUNTEERS."

MR. CHAIRMAN.—I return thanks for the Volunteers, and can bear testimony to the admirable manner in which the different corps of this county have acquitted themselves this day. They consisted of scattered corps which had never been brought together before, but their performances illustrated the principle which I have constantly enunciated, namely, that when company drill has been attended to there is no fear but that when brought together in battalions and brigades they can work well. In Great Britain there are now 347 batteries of Volunteer Artillery, such as those we have seen this day, representing a total force of 22,500 Artillerymen; in addition to which we have 148,000 Volunteer Riflemen. The latter body comprise 211 battalions—that is to say, consolidated battalions in the large towns, under the command of field officers with their Staff, and what are called administrative battalions, consisting of corps raised in other and smaller towns, also under the command of field officers with their Staff. Only the other day

I inspected 20 companies of these scattered corps, forming two battalions, in the county of ————, and they went through all the manœuvres required of infantry on a field day with great credit to themselves. The main stay of the movement is the love of the people for firearms, which is being gradually developed by the National Association, under the auspices of Lord Elcho; and altogether the Volunteer force throughout the country is in a very progressive state of efficiency. A general order has recently been issued, in accordance with the wishes of the Government, for the training of the different corps, each of which, I am glad to say, will now have permanent drill instructors, in addition to the adjutant. Our Volunteers will not be above taking a lesson from what has happened in America, and perhaps our general officers might advantageously do the same. General M'Clellan's first general order referred to that prime essential to an army in the field, the proper sanitary condition of the camps. Besides organizing his army, General M'Clellan also judiciously organized that great vehicle of intelligence, the public press. Instead of chasing away its correspondents and representatives from his head-quarters, he had laid down a code of rules for their guidance, and appealed to their patriotism to follow it. The weak point of our Volunteer system is said to be the officers. No doubt, those gentlemen require time to attain proficiency, but I believe they will not undertake their important duties unless they really intend to qualify themselves for their proper fulfilment. In conclusion I thank you on behalf of the Volunteers.

Captain ———— also acknowledged the toast on

behalf of "The Volunteers," who now had become an established fact, and increasing gradually as they had done to something like 170,000 men, they were not going to decrease rapidly, and whenever wanted he was sure the agricultural men of the county of ———— would stand side by side with their smarter and more soldier-like brethren of ————, and do their best in the defence of their country.

The Speeches and the Business *of a "Day out" of local Artillery, Rifle, and Militia Corps.*

———— Esq., proposed the Army, Navy, and Militia. It was a toast that was sure to be received with approbation, for all knew how much the greatness of the kingdom depended upon their services. It was often a mere formal toast, but on the present occasion it ought to be something more, as those present had the opportunity of seeing how the several services were united with each other, and with the Volunteer movement. The Line furnished sergeants to instruct the corps, and the Militia lent their parade ground for them to drill in. This was a proof, if one were needed, of the good feeling which existed between them. Every branch of the service was, in its own province, perfect, or very nearly so. Upon that day they had learned what our taxes were to be for the year, and that a large sum was set on one side for the Army, Navy, and Militia estimates: but all must consider the money well spent when they saw the efficiency of the men, and remembered the services they were called upon to fulfil.—Colonel ————, an officer of fifty years' standing, acknowledged it on the part of the Army.—Lord ———— said that although he had for a time served in the Navy, yet, as he no longer

held her Majesty's commission, he hardly thought himself entitled to acknowledge the hearty way in which the health of the Navy had been received.—Captain ———— returned thanks for the Militia, stating that he should at all times be glad to be of assistance to the Volunteer movement. He thought the task of acknowledging the toast ought to have devolved upon Captain ————, senior officer of the service, who was loudly called for.—Captain ———— thanked the company for the enthusiasm they had shown. He said it was very gratifying to hear the Militia thus acknowledged by the sister services, and spoke of the assistance they had rendered during the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War.—A. ————, Esq. proposed the officers of the battalion. He expressed the surprise which he experienced on observing the admirable manner in which they performed their several duties. He had from good authority heard that the Volunteers of this county, and especially the ———, had particularly distinguished themselves at the Easter Monday Review.—Major ————, whose name had been connected with the last toast, rose and acknowledged it. He expressed the gratification it gave him to receive the hospitable invitation of the ——th. The Volunteers, from their duties as citizens, had not the same opportunities for drill as the Militia. He hoped they would avail themselves as much as possible of the opportunities afforded them by the battalion drills; they would find these of great practical assistance to them. He congratulated this battalion, and also the ——th corps, upon the manner in which they acquitted themselves upon the Brighton Downs. He was glad to inform them that the way in which they had performed their duty on that occasion drew forth the admira-

tion of General Walpole.—The CHAIRMAN then rose and proposed the health of those gentlemen who, although unable to take an active part as volunteers, yet rendered great assistance by presenting cups and other prizes to be shot for by the members of the corps. The service they thus gave to the cause could hardly be over-estimated—the competition for these prizes kept up the spirit of the Volunteers and was a great stimulus to the movement. He was sorry to say that Mr. ————, who had been one of their oldest and staunchest supporters, was unable to be present. He was glad to say that they were favored with the company of Mr. A. ————, who, by his generosity, had gained the esteem of everybody. They were also honored with the presence of the Earl of ————. If coming events cast their shadows before them, as they surely do, they might easily forsee that the Earl of ———— would rival in popularity his noble father. It was a great boon to obtain the active co-operation of the county gentlemen. He was sure that the health of the donors of prizes would be received as it deserved to be by those who appreciated the aid they conferred upon them.—Mr. ———— said it gave him very much pleasure to be present on that occasion, and he should always give such assistance as he could to the Volunteer movement. He thought this was due to the men who voluntarily gave up their limited leisure and devoted themselves to what some of them must at first look upon as the drudgeries of drill. During the last year he had had the opportunity of conversing with the men of many of the continental countries, and wherever he went he found that our Volunteer army was looked upon with admiration. They were surprised to see the young men of the country coming forth voluntarily

to support the honour of the nation; and in some places it was impossible to make them understand the motives which had led to the formation of what we may now consider a national institution. The contrast between his native land and other countries was most forcibly proved in travelling through Egypt. There the army was recruited by conscription, and this was looked upon by the natives with the utmost abhorrence. The boat in which he ascended the Nile was manned by 14 men, and among them they only had 17 thumbs and 23 forefingers. These men, in common with thousands of their countrymen, had suffered all the agony of self-mutilation rather than be called upon to serve in the army of their viceroy. How very different was the state of things here! The spirit which led to the formation of the army of Volunteers had not decreased; of this they had good proof on Easter Monday. There were then 3,000 more volunteers present than ever before took part in a review away from London. It proved that the men were in earnest; it proved that they were ready to make any sacrifices; it proved that they were ready to fight, and, if need be, to die in the defence of their country.—Private R. G. ————, in a humourous and eloquent speech, proposed the health of the givers of entertainments, a toast which, as he said, would include their kind hosts of that evening. But he would now only speak of those gentlemen who had kindly provided them with refreshments upon their marches out. He should, he was sure, carry the hearts of all with him when he tendered their united thanks to these gentlemen and proposed their health. Their gratitude to their hospitable entertainers would be increased if they kept in mind the gigantic capacities of some of their

members. This rendered it necessary to ascertain before providing if so and so would march out with them, and if so the viands would be increased in the proper proportions. But he (Mr. ————) would wish to look upon this subject in a much higher sense; he wished them to consider the moral influence exercised upon all by the kindly welcome these gentlemen gave them, and by the manner in which they at all times countenanced the corps. It cheered the men on to their duty. All who wear the uniform find that they have some sacrifices to make. They have to give up a portion of their scanty leisure time, to forego certain pleasures, to devote themselves manfully to the duties of drill; but this they willingly did with such encouragement. Should the dire necessity ever arise the citizen soldiers would stand shoulder to shoulder to defend those hospitable doors which so frequently had been opened to them. The thought of those entertainments brought to mind many a pleasant memory—they would recall the hasty march in the keen frosty air, with the moonlight streaming across the landscape, the hearty welcome, the substantial repast, the merry joke, the cheery song, and the pleasant pipe which followed. Enough had been said—it only remained for him to connect with the toast the name of some gentlemen present who had thus entertained them, and he was glad to see there were so many—there was Mr. ————, Mr. ———— ————, Mr. ————, Mr. ————, Mr. ————, and others—but he thought he could not do better than retain Mr. ———— in this case.—J. J. ————, Esq., then returned thanks in his own name, and for those gentlemen whose health had been so cordially received. He made a brilliant speech, in which he said he considered it a duty to

encourage the volunteer cause in every possible way, and not having the means of entertaining the corps as he should wish during the winter months, he hoped they would pay him a visit in the coming summer,—an announcement which was received with loud applause.—The Earl ———— then proposed the health of Captain ————. The wellbeing of any community depended in a great measure upon the man at its head, and the good feeling which should subsist between them. If this were the case with other bodies of men, it was particularly so with a rifle corps. In this respect the ——th were very fortunate; in their Captain they possessed one who was a most efficient officer, and who merited and obtained the respect and esteem of every man in the corps. In a sound practical knowledge of all his duties Captain ———— was equal to any officer in the line. As a citizen, too, he had gained general esteem, and was as highly respected for the virtues of his private life, as for the straightforward, manly way in which he invariably performed his duty.—Captain ———— regretted that he could not address them as he should wish after the kindness they had exhibited towards him. He spoke of his military career, having served for some years in the regiment of volunteers raised by the Earl of ———'s uncle, and afterwards for eleven years more in the Duke of ———'s yeomanry; and now he was attached to a foot regiment. He had the gratifying fact before him that he had entered the ——th as a private, and had now risen to the highest rank in the corps. He again regretted that circumstances would not allow him to speak at greater length, and concluded in the words of Shakspere by saying—

> Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks;
> But I thank you.

Major ———— proposed the health of the officers of the ——th, and coupled with the toast the name of Lieut. ————. There were, he said, certain qualifications in an officer which were necessary to his success and popularity—he should be a cheery, light-hearted, jovial man—and these qualities especially distinguished the gentleman whose name he had mentioned. He had no doubt he would highly distinguish himself as an officer. He had heard with regret that one of their officers had expressed his intention to retire on account of the business upon which he was just entering; but he sincerely hoped that he would re-consider the subject. The duties of the volunteer should be his recreation after the business of the day, and keeping this in view he hoped the Ensign might be induced to change his intention.—Lieut. ————, Ensign ————, and Mr. ————, the assistant surgeon, returned thanks.—The CHAIRMAN then proposed the health of the Chaplain of the corps, saying he was very proud to see him among them, but that it would be unbecoming in his presence to make any remarks in proposing the toast.—It was drank, all standing.—The Rev. Gentleman returned thanks. His duties as chaplain were by no means onerous. He had it on the best possible authority that the members of the corps were all well conducted young men; it was gratifying to hear that they were not "fast" men. As a man of peace himself he supported the volunteer cause most heartily, for the best way to insure peace was to be prepared for war. He was sure that should our shores be now invaded, the volunteers would meet our enemies as Englishmen had ever met their foes. It was a matter of little moment to them that the armies of some continental countries were nume-

rically stronger, for he knew that one Englishman was as good as four foreigners at least. Surrounded by the ——th, the inhabitants might sleep in peace whatever might occur.—Private ————, in flattering terms, proposed the health of the Hon. Sec., whose duties were of a most onerous description, and yet carried out in a most efficient manner. The toast was received with loud cheers, and briefly responded to by Private ————. The CHAPLAIN proposed the health of the representatives of other volunteer corps present, in a short and humorous speech, connecting with the toast the names of Lieut. ————, of the ——th, Mr. ———— of the ———— Corps, Mr. ————, of the ———— School, and the ———— Corps represented by the noble son of a noble father. The toast was warmly received, and responded to by Lieut. ———— on the part of the ——th. They had been near neighbours with the ——th, and had always worked well together; he hoped this good feeling would continue, and that the ——th would still prosper as it had done.—The Earl of ———— briefly responded on the part of the volunteers connected with the public schools of the kingdom.—Captain ———— next proposed the health of the Sergeant Instructor, saying how much they were indebted to him. The toast was drank with musical honours.—Sergeant ———— returned thanks, saying that as a parent may justly feel proud of the success of his children, or a schoolmaster of his pupils, so it gave him equal pleasure and pride to watch the progress of the corps. He concluded by saying that the corps was equal to any in the county. He should like to see them more numerous, and considered that a city of such importance ought to furnish two companies instead of one. He regretted that being in receipt

of government pay he was not allowed to compete when they were engaged in rifle competitions.—The Earl of ———— then rose and said it would give him much pleasure to offer another cup to be shot for this season, and hoped that the competition would be as brisk as ever, and the shooting as good. This was received with loud applause and his health drank with three hearty cheers.—The CHAIRMAN proposed the health of the Surgeon of the Battalion, whose services were ever at their command, but fortunately had never yet been required.—Mr. ———— briefly acknowledged the manner in which his health had been drank; after which the CHAIRMAN suggested that it was time to say "good night," so after the singing of the National Anthem, the company departed, having spent one of the most delightful evenings they had ever enjoyed.

LORD SHAFTESBURY ON THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY said: Volunteers of the county of Dorset, and allow me to add, my excellent and worthy friends—for I shall not stand on this occasion on mere military language—my excellent and worthy friends, you have heard the compliment and the opinions of the reviewing officer—the gallant Colonel Wright—and it is not in my power to add anything to that which has fallen from his lips, dictated as it is by experience, long service, and capability to judge of men both in the field and out of it. Now, my good friends, it has often been my lot to address you after a day of review, and the consequence is I have nothing new to say. I can only repeat what I have always said, and what I have as constantly felt, that I do rejoice to see col-

lected before me such a band of devoted, patriotic, and admirable men brought together for no purpose of violence or aggression, but simply to maintain law and justice, their own rights, the rights of their families, and I may say the peace of the whole human race. I could wish to have something new to say, but I will stand on the old saying, "having nothing new to say, there is nothing ill to say;" there is the same good I have seen before, and therefore I say, instead of anything new, the old language is better. Gentlemen, this is one of the noblest spectacles a free country can enjoy. I ask you whether there is upon the surface of Europe—even among those countries that boast they have a sort of freedom—is there in any one of those countries a nation where the Government can entrust arms to 150,000 men—those men to keep their arms in their own houses, and subject not to the military rule of the Queen, but only to her ordinances, and governed by the great principles of loyalty? And, let me tell you, this is one of the noblest achievements in the history of freedom, when men have attained the point you have, for then they show they are capable of freedom and capable of appreciating it in others, because they have within themselves that principle of self-control without which there can be no respect for the rights of others, and no true and permanent freedom in any part of the habitable globe. You have heard a great deal, and I hope you will hear a great deal more, of what is called the *entente cordiale*—the hearty good understanding between us and the French nation. God grant it may long endure; but allow me to say this, that a hearty understanding is always based upon mutual respect, and upon a recognition of mutual power; and no man is so respectable, or any nation so respectable, as

that which knows how to make itself respected, and does make itself respected by being ready to give to any one who chooses to come as good as he brings. That is what you mean to do—you don't intend to cross the water with any motive of aggression, but you stand here and say, "Woe to the man, or any number of men, who shall dare to set foot upon this sacred soil;" we trust in our justice and in our rights, that under God this blessed country of England, by the manly vigour of her sons, will ever be defended from assault; in homely phrase you say "Live and let live. You shall let us live, and we will let you live." God grant that peace may never be broken, and that we may have many such meetings as that which took place the other day, when the people of Poole so nobly entertained the people from Cherbourg. I wish to God they would come more frequently. I'll answer for myself, and I am sure that every gentleman in the county will say the same—that if they choose to come in a friendly way by hundreds or by thousands, we'll show them hospitality—what a country England is, what homes we have, and homes we intend to fight for. It is because we have such homes that we are determined to stand up in defence of them. We wish to set them a good example—to let them see by the homes of England what we wish them to attain to, that the homes on the Continent may be such as ours; and, when they are happy at home, have peace in their families, and are ruled by the principles of good government, they will never seek to trespass upon the rights of others. Now, my boys, I can only say that there is no one of my duties as Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset which confers on me so much pleasure and honour as these periodical reviews. I confess it raises you highly in my estimation; and your gallant

colonel, my admirable friend Colonel Mansel, very highly indeed as an officer and a gentleman. He is a fine specimen of a British officer and an English gentleman. God grant that we may have many such. Old England need never fear when she has hundreds of sons such as he. Now then my good friends, go to your homes satisfied that you have done your duty, set good examples to all around you, and determine that you will do your duty whenever you are called upon to discharge it; but bear with you, on your lips and in your hearts, this great motto, for the honour of Old England and for the honour of her sons, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, goodwill towards men."

"THE HOUSE OF LORDS."

Toast.—By the Chairman. At an Agricultural Society.

THE CHAIRMAN.— In proposing "The House of Lords," observed that at no period during its existence had it held a more satisfactory position than it did at this moment, and he trusted that it would long continue to exercise a beneficial influence on the country. He looked upon the House of Lords as necessary to the well-being and welfare of the country as that every locomotive should have its safety-valve for the security of the traveller. On the present occasion he felt a special interest in proposing the toast, for they had the pleasure of the presence of one of the most distinguished members of that high assembly, and not only a member of that assembly, but one who held office under her Majesty. Although he did not make much of the office, he did make much of the man. There was no

office in the country for which he was not fitted, and he hoped to see the day when the noble earl would be advanced to some position more fitted to his capacity.

The Earl of ——, in responding to the toast, said: My Lords and Gentlemen,—I am very grateful to you for the kind manner in which you have received the mention of my health, and to my hon. friend for the manner in which he has connected it with the toast of "The House of Lords," a toast which I am always glad to see received with cordiality by all classes of my fellow countrymen, and I say this not because I happen to be a member of that House, but because I know that, in this country, praise is never bestowed and cordiality is never exhibited except when it is thought to be deserved. I claim no superiority for the members of the House of Lords over any other class or any other set of well-educated men, but I believe that nowhere or in any assembly can be found a greater amount of talent, of honesty, and of integrity. It has been said, and truly said, that in that assembly are to be found men of antiquated notions, the advocates of exclusive privileges, and the opponents of popular rights. And if that be true, so far from regretting it, I think that these men are in the right-place, doing harm to none but themselves, and serving as finger-posts pointing to bygone times, and land-marks high and dry to indicate the rapidity of the advance of the age. Gentlemen, composed as the House of Lords is of men the majority of whom have a great stake in the country, and therefore an individual interest in its prosperity and good government—recruited as that House is from the ranks of men whose intellect is immense, whose successful industrial or great public services entitle them to the

highest rewards that the Sovereign can bestow—the House of Lords has earned the respect of the country, and I hope it will continue to do so by ably and faithfully discharging its duty. The House of Lords, by its number and the elements of which it is composed, is practically a popular assembly, not so popular an assembly, certainly, as the House of Commons, but one is as much as the other under the same influence—that of public opinion—which is the result of free thought, of free discussion, of a free press, of that conflict which reason wages against prejudice and passion, and by which truth is separated from error. The opinion so created is no bad master to serve, and no unsafe guide to follow. It is true that the House of Commons, from its more popular origin, may be more ready to receive and more prompt to act upon impressions from without, while the House of Lords may occasionally doubt and hesitate; but that doubt and hesitation has many a time prevented undue haste in the greatest of all matters, the making of laws. But in giving effect to real and true public opinion—in consulting the wishes and promoting the interests of the public—the history of the last thirty years affords abundant evidence that prejudice and self-interest will never prevail, and that the country will never be disappointed by the House of Lords. Gentlemen, once more I beg to thank you for the manner in which you have received the toast.

"If ever you betray what you are intrusted with, you forfeit my malevolence for ever; and you being a simpleton shall be no excuse for your locality."—*Sheridan.*

Our *constitutional* friends—the Baron and the Sir-loin.

Our friends! our country! and our laws!—Home! Love! and Liberty!

"I have done the state some service, and they know it;
No more of that: I pray you, in your letters."
* * * * * *

"Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice."—*Shakspear.*

"And let men so conduct themselves in life,
As to be always strangers to defeat."—*Younge's Cicero.*

"Honour and shame from no condition rise,
Act well your part—there all the honour lies."—*Pope.*

TOASTS.

A bill of exclusion to those who would serve their own private end, and neglect the public good.

May our Peers be distinguished for their integrity:—or our Parliament Peerless.

May Ministers while they are servants of the Crown never forget that they are representatives of the people.

May the people of England always oppose a bad Ministry and give vigour to a good one.

The House.—In the middle of the Thames, and every honest member a cork jacket.

May all men of base principles be abandoned by their principles.

Toast.—By the Mayor.

"THE HOUSE OF COMMONS."

GENTLEMEN.—In giving the next toast I will be very brief; not that the subject is of an unimportant or secondary character, for it is one that can be enlarged upon to any extent, and then justice hardly done to it. It is "The House of Commons;" and as you will be more anxious to hear the gentleman whom I shall name in connexion with the toast than myself, I will be content with saying that I believe the Commons' House of Parliament represents the feelings of all classes of the community, and even all its prejudices. There is no

grievance which cannot find a voice to bring it before the House, and there is no better place in which justice can be sought. Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in giving you the toast, and couple with it the name of Mr. ———.

Mr. ——— I rise in obedience to the call of your Mayor to return thanks on behalf of the House of Commons, and yet I do so with some hesitation, because I cannot forget that in this room and at this table you have a member, although an ex-member, of that House, older and far more experienced than I can claim to be—I mean Lord ——. However, I suppose he has been long enough in the Lords to forget that he ever went through the ordeal of a popular election! and I have always the greatest pleasure in returning thanks on behalf of the House of Commons. I have sat in that House now for nearly ——— years, and I can say with perfect truth, that the longer I have known it the higher has risen my respect for its ability and for its common sense. I have once said before—you will pardon me if I repeat it now—that I believe, both as regards men and things, the opinion of the House collectively is generally better than that of any individual member out of it. I say this for the benefit of your members. The House, so long as I have known it, has always shown a marvellous tact, almost approaching to an instinct, in discerning who were likely to contribute anything to its defects, and who were merely got up to waste time and to air their vocabulary. I have heard speak, with real fluency and eloquence in their way, men of that kind who are described as having great command of language—when probably it would be correct to say that language had great command of them—because

they have about as much command over it as a man has over a runaway horse—men of that class whom I have heard described as not knowing what they were going to say when they got up, not knowing what they were saying when they were on their legs, and not knowing what they had said when they sat down. I say I have known many men of that sort left to declaim to empty benches, while you would have 500 members listening in silent respect to somebody else who certainly had not the gift of oratory, who brought his sentences out head foremost or tail formost, as the case might be, until you wondered how it was possible for a man to speak such bad grammar. But the secret was that they found out that one man had nothing to tell them except the common-places they all new before, but that the other man, however awkwardly and uncouthly he might do it, really had it in his power to contribute some new idea to the discussion that was going on, and intended to do it. I recollect that when, a dozen years ago, the discussion was going on about the competitive examinations for the public service, somebody said, by way of a sneer. "If this competitive examination is such a good thing, why do you confine it to the clerks? Why don't you have it also for secretaries of state and chancellors of the exchequer?" Well, my answer was and is, that that is exactly what we do. No man can obtain a leading position in the House of Commons without passing through a competitive examination of a very rigid and trying kind. It is a trial of physical strength and endurance; it is a trial of patience and of temper; it is a trial of readiness and fluency, it is a trial of thorough and accurate knowledge—but last, and chiefly of all, it is a trial of common sense and of knowledge of the

world. If a man fails notoriously in any one of these particulars, but more especially if he fails in the last, he may do very well elsewhere, but he is not a man who can take a leading part in the House of Commons. Now, only one word more. I suppose there is no popular assembly that has ever enjoyed so much respect and exercised so much power as the English House of Commons. Now, why is that? To give you all the causes would be too long a story for you to hear; but I'll tell you one. It is because there has never existed in the world a legislative body whose component members were so thoroughly independent—independent in social position for one thing, independent in feeling and in character for another. Take the whole House through—count up, you may easily do it, the number of those who are known to be aspiring to high political office; deduct again—and I am happy to say they are very few—those who are supposed to come in on the speculation that they may drop in for a comfortable place somewhere—deduct both these classes, and you will still leave behind the great majority of that House. I therefore say the great majority of that House is composed of men who have nothing to fear and nothing to gain from any Ministers—and who can, therefore, follow a Minister without servility, and oppose him without asperity. While that remains the character of the House of Commons, I for one am not afraid it will ever lose that position it now holds in public opinion.

Our glorious country,—the throne, the birthplace of the free.

Our altars and our hearths; when attacked, may we die to preserve them.

THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MEMBERS.

Toast.—The Chairman.

"THE COUNTY MEMBERS."

GENTLEMEN.—In rising to propose the health of the Members for the county, I must claim your indulgence for a few moments, while I show as briefly as I can the merits that entitle them to your respect, and the reason why they deserve your thanks.

Gentlemen, I will admit freely that the honour of being elected as a knight of the Shire, to serve in the Commons' House of Parliament as the people's representative, is one of no mean degree: it is a dignity, the acquirement of which would justify the aspirations of any man; but a man may well pause ere he assumes the high responsibility that such an office would bring. It is the due performance of the duties in a clear, honest, and straightforward manner that entitles our members to our continued support, and wins for them our applause, whenever occasions like the present offer. With the hope, then, that our present county members may long live to bear their honours, and with them the satisfaction and support of their constituents, I conclude by proposing "the Members for the County."

Toast.—The Chairman.

"THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MEMBERS."

GENTLEMEN.—In proposing the next toast, "The County and Borough Members," I am sure that when Englishmen reflect upon the position of

Europe and other portions of the world, they may feel proud of the pre-eminence and constitution of their country. The varied political opinions of England are fairly represented by the members of the counties and boroughs; and with regard to their own representatives, whatever their opinions may be, or the development of their conduct, as viewed through the public prints, I am sure you all feel that your members honestly and zealously discharge their duties with a patriotic desire to advance the high interests of the country.

Gentlemen.—We are always ready to do honour to those who serve us, and assuredly our County and Borough Members have served and are serving us well. It is impossible to have watched the last Parliament without seeing that they were men of consummate energy and talent, devoting themselves to all the important questions mooted in the House, and in many instances displaying very great talent indeed. On one occasion especially—on the ——— question—our County Member has shown great discernment and application, and, though unsuccessful, he made an admirable fight of it. As to our Borough Members, they have, in their places in Parliament, raised their voices on the side of everything conducing to the interests of the borough and of the country. I am sure the Hon. Member before me so raised his voice, that if they did not heed him they must have heard him; and he was in fact, attracting great attention,—an attention increasing every night of the Session. There can be no doubt that he was gaining more and more the ear of the House. The other Honourable Member for the Borough, Mr.———, has also for many seasons shown how much he is interested in all that concerns the public welfare, and particularly in re-

gard to this borough; and I am told that, whenever anything has occurred upon which it was necessary for the authorities to place themselves in communication with their members, they have always found them ready to act with them and to assist them in every possible manner.

Mr. Alderman ——— (the ex-Mayor) then gave "The Borough and County Members." First on the list was Mr. ———, their senior Member, and a tried man. In his late capacity as Mayor, he always found Mr. ——— assisting, both with his time and purse, everything that was beneficial to the town. Next was Mr. ———, who was an untried man; but he had seen him under two different aspects, one the antipodes of the other: he had seen him defeated and had seen him victorious; and in the hour of victory he wore the same kind, calm look as he did in the hour of defeat. Mr. ——— was a gentleman of great attainments; the eyes of the country at large were upon him; and it was to he hoped that the estimation which had been formed of him would be realized. Next came their old friend, whose name was a very household word,—Mr. ———. He was another tried gentleman, whose abilities, zeal, and attention to all matters, and the manner in which he conducted himself, had met with universal satisfaction, not only from the county, but from the kingdom. Then came Lord ———, who was, like Mr. ———, an untried man, and of whom, personally, he knew but little; but the name of ——— was associated with everything that was great and good.

Toast.—By a Distinguished Guest.

"THE BOROUGH MEMBERS."

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN.—By the kind permission of the Chairman I am allowed to give a toast, and most cheerfully do I rise for that purpose, from the assurance I have that one and all here will join me, and hail with acclamation "the Members of our Borough." Gentlemen, this is not the time for a political speech, and if it were so I am not inclined to give one; enough can be said for these gentlemen without touching on the dangerous ground of politics. In social life we have known them well, and many of us know how highly they are valued in their domestic circles. For this, then, as well as for their generosity and charity, for the local good they are constantly effecting in our borough, and their support and patronage to our races and other sports, and close attention to our interests on all occasions, demands from us a long and hearty cheer for the Borough Members.

Response.—The County Members.

Mr. ——— responded for the County Members. He had always felt, as every man must feel, that it is one of the very highest honours that can befall an Englishman, to be appointed to represent a great and important constituency in the House of Commons; and he had always felt that the constituency which had done him the honour to select him to fill that post in two Parliaments, was one which, in very many respects, is of great consequence to the country. It was one which contained a great many men engaged in a great many different branches of in-

dustry and pursuits of life. It was a county eminently agricultural, containing also several great and important towns (and among them this large and increasing town of———, the metropolis of the——— of England), and was also one which, from its position on the coast, affected great commercial interests, besides being, from its nearness to the continent, an important military outpost of the country. He also felt,—as every man who had visited, or knew anything of the county must feel,—that it possessed great natural beauties—the wildness of the forest, the richness of the cultivated plain, the solitariness and gloom of the oak woods, the beautiful swelling of the Downs, and the most glorious sea coast, perhaps, to be seen in any country in the world. But this evening he was reminded further,—if any evidence were needed of it,—that this was also a county, the inhabitants of which evidently did not less excel in their taste and appreciation of the fine arts; and he also received evidence, if it were needed, on looking round those walls, that the native county of Copley Fielding possessed many sons, worthy champions of the fine arts in the United Kingdom of Great Britain. He had been reminded this evening that that further most important interest of the fine arts was one which should be considered by the Representatives of the County; for though it was often used as a mere idle phrase, yet undoubtedly the influence of the fine arts was one of the most ennobling and elevating a nation can cultivate, and he was proud to think that a taste for the fine arts is growing and increasing in England, and he was especially proud to perceive that the county of———did not lag behind the rest of the kingdom in its taste for and in its encouragement of Art.

Response.—The County and Borough Members.

Mr.————begged leave, on behalf of his hon. colleague, the Borough Members, and himself, to return thanks for the enthusiastic manner in which the last toast was received. His gallant friend, in proposing it, had given them credit for honesty and zeal, and he thought he might say on behalf of those for whom he was speaking that he had only done them justice. He felt it a great contrast to come from the progress of parliamentary business, which was the very essence of slowness, to a meeting, the subject of which was the English race-horse, which was the embodiment of speed; and he thought it a fine satire on the part of the committee to invite them to such a dinner, and that his colleagues had been 'cute enough to stay away, while he was dull enough to come. Colonel————in proposing the toast, had alluded to the pre-eminence of this country and its constitution. Their parliamentary institutions were looked up to as a model by their friends and with envy by their opponents; and in the subject with which this dinner was connected England also took the lead, for it was not only from English horses, which had the best blood in the world, that other countries came to draw, but their code of laws of racing was also imitated by others; and he hoped that their constitutional government would continue to stand as pre-eminent as their racing and race-horses.

Response.—The Borough Members.

Mr. ——— responded for the Borough Members, and expressed his sense of the kindly feeling manifested toward them on this and every occa-

sion. With regard to his honourable friend, one of the Members for———, it afforded him the greatest pleasure to say that they could not have a gentleman who could better represent the interests committed to his charge. Whenever his colleague and himself had been concerned in any question affecting the welfare of this constituency, they had always found the most hearty co-operation on the part of Mr.——. With regard to the other gentleman (Lord———), circumstances might have compelled his absence from the House; but he had really not the pleasure of his acquaintance, having never seen him even in his life; but he had certainly cultivated with great pleasure the friendship of Mr.———, and it would, he was sure, be a satisfaction to them to know that his hold upon the House was increasing daily. The manner in which he had conducted that question in reference to the——— Duty had earned him a great name in the House of Commons, and it was not too much to predicate that, when circumstances permitted, it would be one of the earliest taxes reduced, and very soon, no doubt, they would have to crown their friend, not with laurel, but with that plant with which he had achieved an early triumph.

Response.—The Borough Members.

Mr. ———, in rising, as the senior Borough Member, to return thanks, said,—The worthy alderman who has proposed my health remarked that the people expected great things from the new Parliament. Now, seeing that there will be 161 new men who have never yet sat within the walls of St. Stephen's, I will not venture to predicate what may or may not result from the new Parliament. Our history tells us that we have had a Parliament which was

known as the "Ignorant Parliament," another the "Long Parliament," not to mention the "Barebones Parliament" and the "Rump Parliament." Indeed, the very last Parliament, if my memory do not deceive me, was on one occasion, irreverently designated by the organ of metropolitan opinion as the "Soap-nosed Parliament." Hence, who will dare affirm by what laudatory epithet, or by what opprobrious nickname, the new Parliament may hereafter be known by in our history? What was thought of the House of Commons about a century ago was brought under my notice a few days since when reading the life of the celebrated engineer, I ought rather to have said the celebrated philosopher, James Watt. It is not surprising that he should not have been enamoured of public life, of which he obtained a glimpse in 1767, when a witness on a Parliamentary Committee. In writing to his wife, he says,—"I am close confined by having to attend this confounded Committee," and he adds, "I think I shall not long to have anything to do with the House of Commons again. I never saw so many wrong-headed people—on all sides—gathered together. As Mac says, 'I believe the *Deevil* has possession of them.'" Mr. Alderman ——— has also adverted to the wishes and expectations created by the formation of a new Ministry. It is generally believed that Her Majesty's Government is at the present time, and may be for a few days longer, in an inchoate condition. Under such circumstances I must claim to reserve my judgment as to our prospects; waiting till I see of whom the new Cabinet is composed. One of our recent historians, the Right Honourable Gentleman who occupied the important position which my honourable friend on my right (Mr. ———) so worthily filled in the last Parliament,

and to which office I trust he will be re-elected as soon as we again meet—I mean Mr. ———— ,—has, in his "History of England during the Reign of George the Third," affirmed that "*one commanding genius is enough for any Government.*" If this dictum be true in administrative policy, then the retention by Mr. ———— of his present office will be quite sufficient to sustain the ——— Cabinet, and I presume we shall not be the worse off if all the other Ministers rest satisfied to follow the safe official rule, viz., to be content to be common-place. Good taste forbids that, at a municipal festivity like this, any reference to contentions or party politics should be tolerated. Having, however, so recently emerged from the excitement and turmoil of a contested election, and being now on neutral ground, I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to thank my political opponents for the kindness and good feeling they have uniformly evinced towards me. And I must add, in conclusion, that I shall never forget it was mainly owing to the earnest support of many warm friends whom I now see around me, that I am again able to tender to you all my heartfelt thanks as one of the Parliamentary Representatives of this flourishing and important constituency.

Toast.—The Chairman.

"THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY."

GENTLEMEN.—I have great pleasure in proposing to your notice the next toast, "The Lord Lieutenant of the County." The nobleman honoured by her Majesty with this ancient office is one not unknown to you all. Those who live within the sphere of his immediate influence, can bear testimony to his worth; his unbounded acts of charity are patent to

the world; and he needs only to be known to be esteemed, not alone for his public virtues, but for his private worth. May God spare his life for another generation to applaud him as we do, the type of an English gentleman.

"The Lord Lieutenant."

"THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY."

GENTLEMEN.—I have the pleasure of proposing "The Lord Lieutenant of the County," a nobleman who has exercised the greatest energy, ability, and kindness of heart in promoting the best interests of this part of the kingdom. With the toast I would name the magistrates of the county. I have been in the habit of seeing how well their duties were always performed. It is not too much to say that although I have seen the duties of magistrates admirably performed in other counties, I do not know that they were performed any where with so much zeal, so much discretion, and so much kindness as by the magistrates of ———. You must forgive me if I make particular allusion to one magistrate, who occasionally presides in one of the Courts of Quarter Session. I mean my excellent friend Mr. ———, and I can only say I regret that that gentleman has retired from public life, for he was a most estimable man, and a very useful member of society. I will therefore propose "The Lord Lieutenant of the County, and the Magistrates of ———," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. ———.

"And then, the justice;
In fair round belly, with good capon lin'd,
With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances,
And so he plays his part." *Shakspeare.*

THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MAGISTRATES.

Toast.—The Chairman.

"THE MAGISTRATES OF THE COUNTY."

GENTLEMEN.—The pleasing duty now devolves on me to propose "The Magistrates of the County." This is a toast to which full honour should be done, and I shall not ask you in vain.

When we see gentlemen of such high standing in society, and who have so many demands on their time, giving up their leisure hours to the service of the state and people, as they must do who faithfully serve the office of "Justice of the Peace," I think our least return should be to thank them. None better than the gentlemen who now surround me can appreciate their worth, and therefore there are none from whom the applause could better come. I have no doubt they are all known to you personally, and not better known than esteemed. Without further preface, then, I shall propose to you "The Magistrates of the County."

"THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MAGISTRATES."

GENTLEMEN.—In giving "The County and Borough Magistrates," I will say that it is not a pleasant thing at any time or under any circumstances to be brought up before the magistrates; but if one is to be so brought up, one likes it to be

before men who are competent to do their duty, and who do one justice; and I think that in ——— every man must feel, if he is sent to gaol, it is because he deserves it. I trust that the civilizing and humanizing effects of this among other movements will be such that in time the office of magistrate in this borough may become a sinecure; and I am not without hope that, if I live to propose this toast a few years hence, it will be drunk in solemn silence, the magistrates having become simply historical characters, whose duties have become utterly obsolete, in consequence of the great spread of education and other combining matters.

"Yet I shall temper so
Justice with mercy, as may illustrate most
Them fully satisfy'd, and thee appease."—*Milton.*

Equal punishment to the ragged rascal and the rich villain.

May the misfortunes of others be always examined as the chart of our own conduct.

May they be as ready to correct their own faults as to punish the faults of others.

May our thoughts never mislead our judgment.

May justice and mercy ever be entwined.

Toast.—The Chairman.

"The Borough Magistrates."

Gentlemen.—Taking the opportunity offered me, I ask your permission to propose the next toast of the evening, which is "The Borough Magistrates."

To those amongst us whose leisure will afford time to attend occasionally at the bench and witness the manner in which our local magistrates dispense justice, I need say nothing to enlist their favour for

the toast. To others whose time is so occupied in the battle of life, that from the journals only can they gather knowledge of our local affairs, I can with security rest for a favourable verdict; and to all I can say that the gentlemen filling the office of Justice of the Peace in the borough of ——— are an honour to their country and a credit to the borough.

Response.—The County and Borough Magistrates.

GENTLEMEN.—Holding as I do Her Majesty's Commission as a Justice of the Peace for both County and Borough, I have been requested by my brother Magistrates to thank you for the last toast, and I do so most heartily. The manner in which it was proposed and received convinces us that we have gained your confidence. That "Justice is blind" is, in a spirit of irony, sometimes misquoted, the interpretation of it misapplied, to throw ridicule upon the decisions of a court. She ought always to be blind—powerless to look with favour on either side. It often happens that we have to shut our eyes, not to the facts of a case, but to the position of the parties connected with it, and the magistrates of ——— can, I sincerely believe, claim credit for being impartial. Sometimes it happens that a case occurs in which, upon the surface, a decision may appear harsh, and the cry is raised that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor; but depend upon it that those who raise the cry do it with erroneous philanthropy, not knowing every particular as it is made known to the magistrate, and of which the public is ignorant. Those complaints have not had to be made in this district, where the proceedings of the Court are watched by

a well-conducted Press; but depend upon it that should justice miscarry at any time, the blame will be attributable to an error in judgment, and not to any desire to depart from an oath to administer the law without fear, favour, or affection.

Response.—The County Magistrates.

Mr. ——, M.P., returned thanks on behalf of the County Magistrates, to whom, he said, it would be most gratifying to think that they still enjoyed the confidence of the Borough. Allusion had been made by a rev. gentleman to a County Magistrate having arrested one Derryk Carver, who was burnt, according to Foxe in his Book of Martyrs, but he (Mr. ———) could assure the Vicar that he did not run the slightest risk of being so served by the present Magistrates of the County. They respected opinions too much for that—they were more liberal. But he was not going to say anything about politics on this festive occasion; at the proper time and proper place, on the hustings, or, perhaps, in the House of Commons, they might hear him allude to them. He thanked the company for the kind manner in which the toast was received; thanked the Mayor for his invitation; and hoped that they might have a succession of such excellent Mayors and dinners.

Response.—The Borough Magistrates.

Mr. ——— in returning thanks for the Borough Magistrates, said he should be very brief, because of the hour, for he would remind them that, by a recent Act of Parliament drinking was not allowed

after one o'clock, and they were *not* "allowed" to be drunk on the premises." But should any gentleman present find himself, "owing to circumstances over which he had no control," placed before him in the morning, he would be most happy to lend him five shillings to enable him to fine him. He should not like to be the cause of their breaking the law, and would not therefore detain them longer; but he must testify to the kind and cordial assistance which he and his brother Magistrates had received from past Mayors, and which, he had no doubt, they would receive from the present one.

"Let discipline employ her wholesome arts;
Let magistrates alert perform their parts,
Not skulk or put on a prudential mask,
As if their duty were a desperate task;
Let active laws apply the needful curb,
To guard the peace that riot would disturb,
And liberty, preserved from wild excess,
Shall raise no feuds for armies to suppress."—*Cowper.*

"Though justice be thy plea, consider this—
That in the course of justice, none of us
Shall see salvation." *Shakspeare.*

"Do you not know me, Mr. Justice?
Justice is blind, he knows nobody." *Dryden.*

MUNICIPAL.

THE SPEECHES AND BUSINESS OF ELECTING A MAYOR.

A special Council meeting was held at the Town Hall, for the purpose of appointing a Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year.

The Mayor said: The first business on our agenda is to elect a Mayor in my stead; and I am now ready to receive any nomination which any gentleman may favour me with.

Mr. Alderman ——— then rose and proposed Mr. Alderman ——— to the chair, which he said had been so ably filled by Mr. Alderman ———. The task was an easy one, for a requisition had been sent to Mr. Alderman ———, signed almost unanimously by the Council, asking him to accept the office, and after that there could be no doubt about his appointment. He had known Mr. ——— for about a quarter of a century, and during the greater portion of that time he had been before the public, and he had had all the honours which could be bestowed on a public man conferred on him, except that of Mayor. He had been a Churchwarden, an Overseer, and a Director and Guardian; he was also a member of the Old Commission; and when the town was incorporated, he was one of the first who was elected. He took no part in the agitation either for or against the incorporation of the town; but came forward as an independent man, and as such was elected by the burgesses of

the ——— Ward as their representative. Mr. ——— did not pretend to have any high power of language or brilliancy of thought, but he had an aptitude for business, an honesty of purpose, and a strong determination to do all in his power to promote the welfare and prosperity of the town; and if these were the qualifications necessary for a good Mayor, he was certain that Mr. Alderman ——— would prove equal to any of his predecessors. Mr. ——— would require at the hands of the Council their earnest support, and if that was given him, he (Mr. ———) had no doubt that he would carry out the duties of the Mayoralty to the entire satisfaction of the Council, with honour to himself and credit to the town.

Mr. ——— said he had great pleasure in seconding the nomination of an old public servant, Mr. Alderman ———. He could fully endorse all that had been said of him by Mr. Alderman ———.

Mr. Alderman ——— then walked towards the Chair, and having signed the formal declaration, Mr. Alderman ——— retired, and His Worship took his seat.

The ex-Mayor (addressing the newly elected Mayor) said he had very great pleasure in conducting him to his chair of office, and he assured him that it was very gratifying to him to know that he had been elected by the unanimous vote of the Council. In leaving the chair he felt no regret; and this he could assure the Council most sincerely, for he had received at their hands from time to time during the last two years such an amount of kindness, information, and intelligence that it was one of the most gratifying things that ever occurred to him in the course of his existence, to think that he had been permitted to hold that distinguished

position for two years. He had received much kindness from them and great indulgence, and he could assure the new Mayor that in taking that office he was taking a very serious amount of responsibility and anxiety upon himself; but in carrying those duties out in their integrity, he had no doubt he would find them as great a source of happiness to him as it had been to himself. He was exceedingly pleased at the way in which the vote had been come to, and he had no doubt that Mr. Alderman ——— would have the same courteous assistance from the Council as he had had. He thoroughly endorsed the whole of the remarks made by the proposer and seconder, and therefore it would be presumptuous for him to treat of the excellent qualities possessed by Mr. Alderman ——— for the fulfilment of the duties of Mayor. The Press had also spoken remarkably high of Mr. ———'s good qualities, and therefore he might say that the eyes of the whole town were upon him, and their selection he believed would give universal satisfaction. The whole of these proceedings were now—under the system they had recently adopted—cleared up, and he was gratified to be enabled to assure the newly elected Mayor, on the authority of their Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he would find a handsome balance at the bankers. Mr. Alderman ——— then wished the new Mayor health, happiness, and prosperity, and then shook hands with him, and retired.

The Mayor then said that they could easily imagine that he was not insensible to the high honour they had conferred on him by electing him to the office of Mayor; and he trusted and sincerely hoped that during his year of office he should not abuse the confidence they had so unanimously reposed in

him. He would endeavour, to the best of his ability, to carry out the duties of the office impartially; he would endeavour to dispense its hospitality, to the extent of his means, and all that could be done to enhance the value and importance of the office he would endeavour to do. The late Mayor had thought proper to expatiate on his merits; but whatever he could lay claim to, he had always acted with honesty of purpose, and pursued a path of rectitude and moral courage to the best of his ability. In his new position he should continue to do the same. The year might possibly—and there was reason to expect it would —be a momentous one. There would be matters brought before the Council of very great importance, and he hoped that in their discussion calmness and kindly feeling would be exercised, and he had no doubt that whatever conclusions they arrived at then, they would prove conducive to the welfare of the inhabitants. He again heartily thanked them, for he felt exceedingly grateful for the honour they had done him, and he would do the utmost in his power to carry out the duties of the office to their satisfaction.

Mr. Alderman ——— then proposed a vote of thanks to the ex-Mayor, for the diligence and ability with which he had carried out the duties of Mayor during the last two years. It was unnecessary, he said, for him to go into all Mr. Alderman ———'s good qualities, for there was nothing since he held office, which would tend to promote the prosperity of the town, which he did not most cordially support. He alluded to his recent endeavours to secure the holding of the Southern Counties Association meeting at ——— next year; which he said he hoped would be crowned with success.

Mr. Alderman ———— seconded.

Mr. ———— bore testimony to Mr. Alderman ————'s assiduity, not only in matters which came before that Council, but others which affected the interest of the town,—such as the ————.

Mr. ———— alluded particularly to the encouragement he had given to education by presenting a "Mayor's Prize" to the principal educational establishments in the town for competition amongst the pupils. He trusted his successor would follow the good example he had set in that respect.

Mr. ———— stated, as an instance of Mr. Alderman ————'s attention to his duties, that during the last year, independent of the ordinary busi ness of the Council, he had attended no less than —— Committee meetings.

The vote having been unanimously passed,

The Ex-Mayor (Mr. Alderman ————) said he thanked them most heartily for the kind expressions which had been used by the various speakers regarding him. It was somewhat remarkable that such a number of large and important public works had been completed during the two years he had been in office. In saying this, however, he did not seek to take credit for their accomplishment, for he was aware that they were not accelerated by the fact of his being Mayor; but he alluded to it, to show that the borough was progressive in every respect It was all very well for people outside those walls to complain of what was done or left undone by them; but if they were dissatisfied they should come into the Council and remedy their defects. For his own part he was quite satisfied that the body of gentlemen now forming the Council were most assiduous in their endeavours to promote the prosperity of the town, and the interest

of its inhabitants. During his term of office the central ——— works had been completed, and were a great success; the ——— road had been widened, a leviathan work, and a great and lasting improvement; the ——— rooms had been restored, and the importance of keeping that "lion" of the town in good condition was manifested on Saturday, when no less than —— persons visited it; the approaches to the railway station had been improved, other streets widened, and the obnoxious slaughter-houses removed. The plans of the drainage had been completed, and sent up to the Local Government Act Office for confirmation, and undoubtedly under his successor's directory these plans would be carried out. The cells under the Town Hall would also occupy their attention during the current year; likewise the question of appointing an officer of health; and also the formation of a large public room and the appropriation of the northern ——— property. Relative to the ——— Counties' Association he was happy to be able to tell them that he held in his pocket a letter which stated that the show would be held in —— next June, on Mr. ——'s estate. The money which the town promised to guarantee he had in his possession—or rather he had promises to the required amount, which was the same thing. In conclusion he again thanked the Council for its kindness to him during his term of office, and also to Mr. ———, Mr. ———, Mr. ———, and Mr. ———, for the courtesy they had shown him and the assistance they had rendered him.

May the liberties of Englishmen never be clipped by the shears of bad economy.

Speech on proposing a Mayor.

Mr. Alderman ———: I move the appointment of Mr. Alderman ——— to the civic dignity of Mayor for the ensuing year, having known Mr. Alderman ——— for upwards of ——— years, during which time he has always shown himself to be a consistent man of business, and the most methodical man I ever knew. You are all aware how necessary method is in carrying out the business of the Council; and I am quite sure Mr. Alderman ——— will be found fully equal to all that may be required of him in the office of Mayor. At the head for many years of a large commercial house, he has by his business habits gained the fullest esteem of a large portion of his fellow townsmen; he has risen, as it were, from the ranks—he began at the bottom spoke of the ladder of life—he is the architect of his own fortune. And if more was required to speak to his character, his liberal and unostentatious charity would at all times point to him as a fitting man to represent this borough as its Mayor. Another qualification is that Mr. Alderman ——— having no occupation, has his whole time at his command, and can give his sole attention to the duties of Mayor of this important town. He has also, as a reward of his integrity and industry, a good long purse,—a very necessary appendage to the office of Mayor; and with his long purse he possesses a most open and liberal heart; and I am willing to guarantee that, as Mayor, he will never hesitate to put his hand into that long purse upon every occasion when necessity requires it to support the dignity of the office. I have long known Mr. Alderman ——— as a regular attendant at the Council Board, and also at

the weekly meetings of the County Hospital; and I am sure you may fairly accept him as the new Mayor, and as one taking a great interest in the local benevolent institutions of the town; and we shall all be prepared to congratulate him,—as will the town at large—on his being elected Mayor for the ensuing year. I may fairly congratulate the town on its being able to secure the services of such a gentleman; and I fully believe that when his year of office shall have expired, and we come—to use his own commercial phrase—to take stock of the past year, I think you will be enabled to say of Mr. Alderman ———, as he has often, during his business career, said of others, that he has well balanced the account. I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. Alderman ——— to be Mayor for the ensuing year.

Toast.—By the Senior Alderman.

"HEALTH OF THE MAYOR.

Mr. Alderman ——— said that for some years past a privilege had devolved on him, inasmuch as it had been the privilege from time immemorial for the senior alderman to propose the health of the Mayor. He had seen the greater number of his friends pass away; he was therefore able to say, not with any degree of vanity, but rather with sorrow, that he was now the father of the Corporation. He would not, however, dwell on that subject. He knew well that they would do honour to the toast he should now propose, and not allow the feebleness of the advocate to prevent them from doing it the justice which it deserved. He had known his hon. friend who filled the chair for a

long series of years, and had witnessed his conduct in the Corporation of ———; and having for —— years enjoyed his friendship, he could say that if he had performed the onerous duties of the mayoralty as well as he had discharged the duties that had devolved upon him as an alderman, no eulogium would be necessary to recommend him to his fellow citizens. He represented a large and distinguished ward in this city. The zeal and ability he had brought to bear in his commercial capacity had been such as to commend him not only to the constituency of his ward, but to the whole body of his fellow citizens. He trusted that his friend would be as happy in his association with the Corporation as he (Mr. Alderman ———) had been in his year of office, for then his mayoralty would be agreeable and satisfactory. He could only reiterate the words of Alderman ——— in wishing that the Mayor might have health to undertake the important and onerous duties which would devolve upon him. He could assure him that those duties were onerous, and were important, and he must make up his mind to devote his time to their performance. It was satisfactory to know that his friend had scions about him who could relieve him of other labours, and so enable him to devote his time to the discharge of the great and important duties he was about to assume. He was satisfied his friend would do so, not only to his own honour, but to the credit of the city of which he was to be chief magistrate. He asked them to rise and drink "The Health of the Mayor."

May the whole universe be incorporated in one city, and every inhabitant be presented with the freedom.

"Health of the Mayor."

Mr.——proposed "The Chairman," which was, he said, the health of his excellent friend the Mayor of ——. This town owed its growth and increase of wealth to many natural advantages,—to its breezy downs, its fine drives, its bathing, and its excellent line of railway; but all these advantages alone were not enough to secure the prosperity of a town. It required good local administration. When he was travelling in Spain, he was told a story of an old king which made a great impression upon him. This old Spanish king was very patriotic, and prayed to the Virgin for all sorts of blessings for his country. He asked for fertile lands, rich mines, a splendid climate, brave men, lovely women—and all were granted. At last he asked also for good administration in addition. But the Virgin said "No; I have given you everything else, and if I were to give you good administration in addition, I should not have an angel left in heaven; they would every one of them desert their colours." He trusted——might be more fortunate than Spain—that she would always have a good administration in addition to her natural advantages.

"Health of the Mayor."

The Chairman, in proposing the health of the Mayor of——, said that a great many changes had taken place during the last few years, and a great many changes had taken place in the neighbouring town of——. He had watched the progress of——with great satisfaction,—the reason being that he felt no jealousy in the advancement of that town, and he looked at it as largely contribu-

ting to the resources of———. He was always pleased to see an interchange of good offices between ———and———. To day they were favoured with the presence of his worship the Mayor of———. It was the first time their festive gatherings had been honoured with the presence of the Mayor of ———, but he hoped to see many successive Mayors of——— honour them with a visit. He was delighted that Mr. ——— had accepted the invitation, as it tended to establish a reciprocity of kindly feeling between the two towns.

"The Mayor and Corporation."

Toast.—By the Chairman.

Gentlemen.—I shall now have the honour of proposing to you a toast scarcely requiring remarks from me, as it commends itself. It is "The health of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough (or city) of———." The municipal institutions of this country are amongst the most valuable part of our organisation, for they create and carry into execution those principles of self-government which are the life and action of every nation. It is a great honour for any man to be selected by his fellow countrymen to uphold voice, power, and influence over them; and those who wear the civic crown in the quality of mayor, must be men who have entitled themselves to the respect, goodwill, and confidence of their fellow citizens. The present Mayor, and those who act with him, have well earned the dignity which has been conferred upon them, and I have much pleasure in proposing for your acceptance, "The Mayor and Corporation."

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE CORPORATION OF———."

GENTLEMEN.—I have to inform you that the next toast on the list is "The Corporation of———." It is hardly necessary to dilate upon the excellence of municipal government, as it is an institution of self-government representing in severalty that which the people of England are in entirety. I have had great experience in corporations of other countries, and I have travelled in France and Prussia, and have seen municipal corporations there; corporations they call them, but Englishmen would call them "shams";—they are not of a nature to satisfy an Englishman's ideas. Fancy our worthy Mayor being directed by the Government, as they are in France, to return some horrid old Tory. How excessively disgusted he'd be!

The MAYOR: I should refuse to do it.

I beg to say that in France the Mayor, who is called the Prefect, is liable to all that. The Government make it part of his duty. It is the same in Prussia; but I am happy to say that here we have a Corporation whose duty it is to attend to the interests and comfort of the inhabitants, and I am sure that we are all very much obliged to the Mayor and the rest of the gentlemen who undertake that responsible duty, and who carry it out so satisfactorily.

Mr. ——— said the toast which he had to propose was the toast of the evening, but he found that he must be very brief in his observations respecting it. His duty in proposing it was a most pleasing one, and he was sure that all present would feel an

equal pleasure in responding to it. It was "The Mayor and Corporation of———." Some few years ago, when the Borough was first incorporated, very great dissatisfaction was expressed by many of the inhabitants at the new form of Government, and he was free to confess that he was one among the number. He now saw the mistake he made, and was willing to admit that he was in error. And he was perfectly convinced that the inhabitants were now satisfied with it and with the way in which the duties were performed by the Town Council. He need not enumerate the great number of improvements which had been made since the town was incorporated; but he would say that the town had flourished under the new form of government in a manner that it had never experienced before. The Town Council had executed their duties most faithfully, with great advantage to the town and for the benefit and comfort of its inhabitants and visitors. In making these observations he felt bound to mention the name of Mr. Alderman ———. That gentleman had had the honour of being twice elected to the Mayoralty; a high compliment to him; and well had he executed the duties of the office, as they all knew. Not only did he execute his duties faithfully and impartially as a public man, but his manner was at all times courteous; and there was not the least doubt that the present Mayor would pursue the same course.

Response.

The MAYOR Elect, ——— said, I am so much impressed by the great honour you have done me by electing me as your Mayor, that I shall find considerable difficulty now in addressing you. The

[illegible] this day realised—I am
[illegible] my native town, a honour I
[illegible] to obtain; my life has
[illegible] I am happy to say I have been
[illegible] point, and the honour
[illegible] this day fully repays me for the
[illegible] life. Let no one despair of
[illegible] the highest municipal honour
[illegible]. What has been said of me
[illegible] ——— in proposing me to this
[illegible] the wind out of my sails, and
[illegible] the kind and feeling manner in
[illegible] placed my name to the Council,
[illegible] to accept my warmest thanks
[illegible] for the kindness. In re-
[illegible] placed in me. I can only say
[illegible] as in the past, I shall give my best
[illegible] duties of the office of Mayor, as I
[illegible] as one of the aldermen. I in-
[illegible] personal daily attention during the
[illegible] requirement in connection with
[illegible] business of this town. I regard the
[illegible] you have been pleased to place
[illegible] noble one. I think it should
[illegible] I am deeply grateful for your vote
[illegible] I sincerely trust that you will never
[illegible] the step you have taken to-day
[illegible] the Mayor; and I promise to give
[illegible] to the office, and when at the end
[illegible] the chair, I hope to return the
[illegible] hands as pure and unsullied as I have
[illegible] it from my predecessor. Again
[illegible] the high honour you have conferred



Response by the Mayor.

The MAYOR, in response, said: Mr. Alderman ———, I thank you, sir, for the very graceful and complimentary manner in which you have introduced my name, and I thank you, gentlemen, for the cordial manner in which you have listened and responded to him. My hon. friend has kindly shadowed forth the responsibilities of the office which I shall have the honour to hold. Gentlemen, I am not a man to make promises. I think the citizens of——— will be very much better served by a man who does not promise anything, and who does a little, than by a man who promises a great deal and does nothing. It is impossible for a man to be always right. He must be wrong sometimes, and I fear that I can see looming in the distance faults and shortcomings of my own. But, gentlemen, "to err is human—to forgive, divine." I will struggle to maintain unimpaired the dignity of this high and important office. If I fail, it shall be neither for want of industry nor for lack of good intention. I beg to return you my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the compliment I have just received.

Response by the Mayor.

GENTLEMEN.—I return you my sincere and grateful thanks for the distinguished position in which you have this day placed me. In electing me to be the chief magistrate of this great and important city, you have conferred on me the highest honour to which any citizen can aspire—one of which any man may be justly and honourably ambitious. You have realised the day-dream of my early life, and I hope I shall neither disappoint your expectations

nor destroy or weaken any of those ancient rights and privileges of which this city is so justly proud. I feel the responsibilities of my position, and I hope I shall never be unmindful of the duties of a citizen. When I consider that I shall this day be proclaimed as chief magistrate of the City of———, and when I look back to the struggles and disappointments of my early life, I can scarcely realise the fact. Gentlemen, my past career is before you. If that had not been the career of a faithful and independent citizen, I should not have been permitted to address you in my present position, and if what I have done has met your approbation, I can only say that I shall proceed in the same course, neither looking to the right hand nor to the left, but always bearing in mind that the only way to secure the respect of one's fellow men is by pursuing a course of honour and independence, as it always has done, and I believe always will do. Gentlemen, permit me further to say that I will exercise the powers with which you have invested me with firmness and with moderation, and I hope, when I appear here again to render up the trust, you will find that the dignity and prestige of this high and honourable office has suffered nothing in my hands.

Response—By the Mayor.

The Mayor of ——— said he thanked the Chairman for the very flattering encomiums he had been pleased to bestow on him as the Mayor of ——— for which he begged to tender him and the company present his warmest and best thanks. He was quite sure that it was the warmest wish of the inhabitants of——— to be on friendly terms with the town of ——, because the interests of the one were identical

with those of the other, and he wished the same feeling to prevail throughout the county of———. He was very glad to have his health drank in this manner by the inhabitants, for he claimed an early association with the Borough of ———, in which he had received his education. He felt gratified at receiving the invitation, and he trusted ——— might be attended with prosperity for many generations to come.

Response.

The MAYOR briefly acknowledged the toast on behalf of himself and the Corporation of———. He fully endorsed the opinion of Mr. ———, that a Corporation was the best form of local government, being that of self-government. He fully believed this to be the truth. There was much to do in the coming municipal year connected with sanitary matters; and he trusted that it would be attended to with no niggard hand, for the sake alike of inhabitants and visitors. ———, it must not be forgotten, had no manufactures; its staple was its visitors, and for those visitors the town should be made as perfect and as attractive as municipal regulations could make it. He begged to thank those assembled for their kind feelings towards the Corporation of———.

Response—By the Mayor or Senior Alderman.

GENTLEMEN.—It is with unmingled pleasure that I rise to thank you on behalf of the body whose health has been so enthusiastically received, and to especially thank the Chairman for the eloquent way in which he submitted the toast to you. The manner in which you responded to his call is a convincing proof that you endorse his sentiments with regard

to the importance of self, or local government, which is the palladium of all our liberties, and should be dearly cherished by us, having been won by the blood of our forefathers, and raised and having maintained this England of ours in its present and envied position among nations. Where there are no municipal institutions, such as are to be found in this country, there can be no real freedom,—freedom of thought, and speech, and action; and it is this freedom which engenders obedience in the governed, and confidence in those who rule. The man who is not willing to obey, is not fit to govern; and where can you point to a people abroad in whom their sovereign can place such reliance as is placed in the people of England? It is this confidence which exists between the Government and the governed, that not only allows the latter to make laws for themselves, but enforces a respect for them.

Gentlemen, I also thank you on another ground, —on the reception which you gave the toast. It is satisfactory evidence to us whom you have selected as governors of this municipality, that, if we have not done all that could be done, we have gained your approbation and sanction of those acts which have been performed; and on behalf of the Corporation, I can say with truth, that they have laboured conscientiously, and will be ever mindful of their duties and watchful over your interests.

Response.—By the Mayor.

The MAYOR, in responding to the last toast, said it had been his earnest endeavour to discharge the duties of his office, which he had now filled for a year and a half, in a manner which should result in

gaining for him the good opinions of the people of the town. This town has now become the metropolis of this part of England, and notwithstanding all that had been done, he could assure them that whoever succeeded him would find there were great duties yet to perform. He felt deeply and sincerely the importance of upholding the attractions of the town, and hoped those attractions would increase.

Response.—By an Alderman or Councillor.

Mr. Alderman ——— briefly acknowledged the last toast, and said he could assure them that the Corporation had done all in its power which would conduce to the interests of the inhabitants by improvements in general, but more particularly those of a sanitary nature; and he hoped it would foster the races and other amusements, which were the only staple commodity of the town. He was at all times pleased to meet his fellow-townsmen at social entertainments like the present, as they were calculated to establish and perpetuate that good feeling which should ever exist between the inhabitants and the governing body. He would conclude by thanking the worthy Chairman and the company for the manner in which the toast had been received on behalf of the Mayor and Corporation of ———.

PAROCHIAL.

"The Board of Guardians."

By the Vice-Chairman.

Gentlemen.—A toast has been placed in my hands which I have great pleasure in submitting to you; it is that of "The Health of the Board of Guardians." No body of men are more deserving our thanks than those gentlemen who voluntarily give up their time to those onerous, and, not infrequently, painful duties, of attending to the wants of the poor. None but those who are acquainted with those duties can fully realise them. The qualifications for a Guardian do not consist in his paying so much "scot and lot," or in being "discreet," in the general terms of the Act of Parliament; but he must be a man of unbending resolution and determination, yet full of compassion; for it should be borne in mind, that a Guardian of the Poor has two important trusts committed to his charge—the money of the ratepayers, and the wants, even the lives, of a section, and a large section too, of his fellow creatures. If niggardly with the one, in order to save the pockets of the ratepayers, he acts unjustly towards those who have a legitimate claim to the money for whose support it has been collected; and if he administers relief without exercising caution, he encourages imposition, whereby the ratepayer and the truly necessitous are both wronged. But in this parish I am pleased to [redacted] able to say, from having been a keen observer of

how the parochial affairs are managed, that the really deserving are kindly cared for and relieved according to their several wants, while those who trade on pauperism find no sympathy. Therefore, gentlemen, I call upon you to join us in drinking to the Board of Guardians.

"DIRECTORS AND GUARDIANS OF THE POOR."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I am told that in the programme of to-day's proceedings my name is entered for a toast, and the time to give that toast has now arrived; I must therefore claim your attention for a few minutes to enable me to accomplish the object entrusted to my charge. Gentlemen, the toast I have to propose is the "Directors and Guardians of the Poor," and amongst the many social offices that civilization has compelled us to assume, I know of none more onerous than that of a Guardian of the Poor. Of course if there were no poor, no Guardians would be needed; but, as the highest authority has said, "The poor ye shall have always with you," as a sequence, we must always have Guardians. Now this is an office but few would seek; in the first place, its unthankfulness, for as a rule the poor are not grateful; secondly, because the faithful discharge of the duties exacts a vast amount of time that could much more advantageously be bestowed in business. Still, I say it with pride, we can find men, who, notwithstanding these objections, faithfully and honestly discharge their duties with a perfect abnegation of self; such men, I say, deserve our highest admiration and praise; such men it is that reflect credit on a town and add to the greatness of the nation. Gentlemen, the functions of a Guardian of the Poor

comprise also the guardianship of the poor rates; in this all are interested, and to see that, whilst the infirm and indigent are properly cared for, no imposition shall be practised, demands no mean degree of intelligence and tact. That intelligence and that tact, I am bold to say, is nobly displayed by the gentlemen to whom my toast alludes, who now enjoy the confidence of the rate-payers and hold the office of Directors and Guardians, and to that body our thanks are due, and are hereby given, with the hope that in the mysterious dispensations of Providence it may never be their lot to seek the aid thus provided for the poor; but, if it must be so, that they may be under a board of Guardians as just and merciful as in their prosperity they were themselves. Gentlemen, "The Directors and Guardians of the Poor."

Toast.—"THE DIRECTORS AND GUARDIANS OF THE POOR."

GENTLEMEN.—The next toast I have to submit to your notice is in reference to a body of gentlemen who have an important and difficult duty to perform, and one at all times requiring a vast amount of discrimination. I refer to the "thirty wise and discreet" inhabitants who are elected every year to act as the Directors and Guardians of the Poor. The amount of labour they have to perform is very great, and the time they have to devote to carrying out the duties appertaining to the office is almost unknown but to those who have belonged to that body. The office of a Director and Guardian can only be carried out properly by those persons who have a good deal of time to spare, and are willing to give it for the benefit of their fellow-townsmen and poorer bretheren. To those gentlemen who do

give their time to the office, we should be ever ready to acknowledge the great obligation that we are under to them. I therefore propose to you "The Directors and Guardians."

Response.—By a Member of the Board.

"THE DIRECTORS AND GUARDIANS."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—As a Member of the Board of Directors and Guardians of this town I beg to acknowledge the toast you have been pleased to propose and drink, and it affords me a great deal of pleasure in having an opportunity of doing so. The office of a Director and Guardian is one of great responsibility, inasmuch as they have to jealously watch the interests of the ratepayers to see that they are not imposed upon by the worthless and indolent, at the same time to take care that the deserving poor are sufficiently relieved of their present wants, and when possible, to put them in such a position that they may not become permanent paupers. Many deserving persons are temporarily placed in circumstances over which they have had no control, and have to apply for Parochial relief; it is then the duty of the Guardians to administer to the wants of such applicants with discretion, and with the utmost liberality consistent with the nature of the case. On behalf of the Directors and Guardians, I thank you.

Response.—By a Member of the Board of Directors and Guardians

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I beg to thank you very sincerely for the kind way in which my friend Mr. ——— has proposed my name, and for

the friendly and cordial manner in which you have received it. I am not, gentlemen, so vain and so conceited as to suppose that it is owing to any merits of my own that I have been received here so kindly to-night. On the contrary, I think it is to your partiality, and to your belief that I have endeavoured in the several positions which I have held in this town, to discharge faithfully the duties that belong to me as a parishioner, a citizen, a Churchwarden, Overseer, and a Director and Guardian of the Poor, —that it is to this I owe your kind reception. I have lived amongst you for many years, unknown to the great bulk of the people of ——, endeavouring, in a quiet manner, to perform certain duties which I felt that my leisure and my time enabled me to discharge, towards forwarding the improvement and the relief of those of my poorer and needier fellow citizens. And it was not till after I had been a resident in your town for some time that I was called from private life to take a part in the duties and responsibilities of public life. It was not till I had lived here for some years, that that event befel me. I would have preferred—I candidly confess to you, —to have remained within that privacy than to have obtruded myself in public life, but a large number of my fellow townsmen urged me from time to time to come forward, thinking I could serve this Parish and the public at large by taking a more active part in the concerns of the Town. I did not feel myself at liberty when these appeals were made to me to refuse the task which my fellow-townsmen were willing to place on my shoulders, and therefore it is that I have the honour of standing before you to-night as one of your Representatives at the Board of Guardians. In that place I have endeavoured to discharge, faithfully and fearlessly, the duties

appertaining to my position, and that I have not altogether failed let the meeting of to-night attest. Let me, however, admit that I have not done all that I could have wished to have done. But when you, representing this large Parish, sent me into the arena of the Directors and Guardian's room, I felt that the way in which a man might have acted as a citizen was no test of how he might succeed in the Board Room. But I went there, strong in my own sincerity of purpose. I went there, determined, at all events, that the representation of a large town like this should not suffer in my hands, either from a want of dignity or a want of utility. And I went there, in the knowledge that I must make myself acquainted with the feelings and the atmosphere of the assembly in which I was placed. I went there with no vain, overweening notions of myself. I knew there were men in that Board who were, in all respects, my equals, in most respects my superiors in judgment, in knowledge, in intellect. And I knew it was not my business to thrust myself before that Board; if I had attempted to make it my business to do so I must have failed, and ensured present ridicule and future failure. I went there with my eyes and ears open, but with my mouth shut. Still, I did feel that I was striving to gain a position and a standing, which, in the person of myself, should reflect credit on the Parishioners of the town of ———. I have said that my thanks are due to you for the kind manner in which you have received me to-night; they are also due to you for the opportunity you have thus afforded me of stating to you some few of my past acts and past votes at the Board, and also of telling you what is to be my future line of conduct. And first of all I will go to that measure which has elicited so large an amount

of feeling and of opinion during the last few weeks —I allude to Mr. ———'s propositions,—I say that it was "a one-barrelled measure," having only one intention in it—the increase of the poor rates. I voted against that measure, I voted against it last year, and I did so this year, and I am going to explain to you why I did so. Now, allow me to say this, before I go into that subject. I stand here to night, by the kindness of the Parishioners of ———, to put before them my ideas and opinions; if you believe those ideas and opinions to be wrong, the time is close at hand when you can vindicate your ideas and your opinions. I do not want to sail under false colours. Rather be it to me to haul down my flag with honour, than to keep it flying under false pretences. To me, gentlemen, the issue is not so important; I can retire into public life, and enjoy the private pursuits I have been accustomed to; and, if thrown out, I can fall back on them without feeling one shade of resentment, without feeling one pang of regret. Therefore, I say, it is better that the Parish should understand me and that I should understand the Parish. I voted against Mr. ———s' one-barrelled affair, and if you again return me I should do the same. But remember, as I said in the year 186—, so I say now in the year 186—, I am not opposed to a fair, a true, and an honest Removeable Bill. Do not let my opponents take advantage of my words; they are exceedingly clever and adroit, but their cleverness sometimes becomes folly, and their adroitness cunning. I say that, as I was in 186—, so now am I an advocate for a fair, a true, and honest Removeable Bill. Do you ask me to pledge myself to details? Details! Where is the party that is agreed on details? But I was in favour of the Union

Chargeability Clause, and I appeal to my friend, Mr. ——— (who is one of the Guardians of the Poor), whether that is not a measure for the relief of the Poor? Hitherto you have had your close parishes trying to oust the poor people therefrom, and to prevent others from coming into them. Gentlemen, I was one of those who gave to that measure the strongest support, believing that it would tend to the happiness of the poorer classes. If I should have the honour of being again returned to the Board of Guardians as your representative, I should go with a determination to do my duty,—with a determination to obtain a settlement of this vexed question, and, if there were no other solution of it to be gained, I would even gain it at the risk of ———. I feel that in doing this I should be adopting the consistent line of politics,—that I should be doing that which I believe to be for the ultimate benefit and welfare of the Poor of England. If you can find me out a more simple, a more efficacious plan, I am quite willing to adopt it. I have voted in every measure for the strictest economy, and I believe that the time must speedily come when a reduction of our expenditure will take place. I shall now pass on to the event coming on within the next two or three months, and say at once it is my intention again to solicit the suffrages of the Parish of ———. As I said in 186—, so I said in 186—, and so I say in 186—, my motto will be "Economy and Justice!" I will not be one of those who will give up to party what was meant for mankind at large, and it is some satisfaction for me to know that during the last week or ten days Mr. ———, the extreme advanced Member of the ——— Party, has advanced that motto. What I said in 186—, and what a number of persons objected to at that

time, is now proclaimed from the high estate of ——— itself as the true principle upon which every Liberal Guardian is to go to the Board-room. I hope they will stick to their colours. I do not think they will; party spirit runs so high that I do not think they will have strength to resist the temptation; but, if they do so, I shall be glad to meet them with the same motto, but with only this distinction, that mine was written in 186—, their's in 186—. Well, Gentlemen, I must draw to a close. I had many other things to say, but I fear I shall be tedious, and it is wearing into the night. I shall simply say this,—if you choose to elect me again I will do in the future as I have done in the past. Gentlemen, if you do not choose to elect me again I can retire into private life, and I do not suppose I shall be much less happy. But there is one thing which, whether beaten or not, you will be able to say, and that is that your present Member of the Board of Guardians and future candidate has violated no pledges, falsified no hopes, and broken no promises—that he has not by clap-trap arguments, or insincere protestations of services, sought to gain a fleeting popularity; but that he has, on the other hand, by acting independently, by following a straightforward line of conduct, and by strict attention to his duties, endeavoured, not to gain this fleeting popularity, but the calm, steady, and steadfast respect of those whose esteem and respect is alone worth having. Gentlemen, on behalf of the Directors and Guardians of ——— and myself, I thank you.

"Affliction's sons are brothers in distress,
A brother to relieve, how exquisite the bliss."—*Burns.*

"To be poor, and to seem poor, is a certain method
Never to rise."—*Goldsmith.*

TOWN AND TRADE OF ———.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE TOWN AND TRADE OF ———."

GENTLEMEN.—The next toast is one in which we are all more or less interested, inasmuch as we in a great measure derive our existence from the trade of the town; in point of fact, the prosperity of ——— is our prosperity, and its success our success. Who then should be more desirous that the Town and Trade of ——— should continue to prosper than the inhabitants thereof? I feel then strongly fortified in my position, having the assurance of a hearty response from all, and knowing that it will be only necessary to mention my toast. I charge you then, gentlemen, to fill high and drain the cup to "The Town and Trade of ———."

Toast.—By the Vice-Chairman.

"THE TOWN AND TRADE OF ———."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—The next toast has fallen to my lot, and, without being guilty of hypocrisy, "I wish it had been placed in abler hands." The toast which I have to propose, and which I am sure will meet your hearty approval, is "The Town and Trade of ———." For many years past I have been in the habit of coming here annually, and am therefore cognisant of the many improvements which have been made, not only in

the town, but in the business premises of several of the tradesmen; and these are sufficiently indicative of its and their prosperity. May both continue to flourish;—in fact, one cannot advance without the other; and in giving the toast to you I shall couple with it the name of Mr. ———.

Toast.—By a Resident.

"THE TOWN AND TRADE OF ———."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I have had a toast placed into my hands, which I shall have the honour of proposing. It is "The Town and Trade of ———." I consider that a proud position has been conceded to me in entrusting me with that toast. I sincerely hope that prosperity will attend the Town and Trade of ———. In former years I was in the habit of visiting the town of ———, and, with the greatest possible delight and pleasure, I was delighted to have the pleasure of meeting my friends of this place;—kind and true friends many, very many, I am happy to say, have proved themselves to be—

"A generous friendship no cold medium knows,
Burns with one love, with one resentment glows;
One should our interests and our passions be,
My friend must hate the man that injures me."
Pope's "Homer."

I have travelled in the most beautiful parts of the world, but I have always returned to this town with the utmost amount of pleasure. I have had a great deal to do with the tradesmen of ———, and I have always found them the most upright men I ever had business transactions with in my life. This town is visited by everybody. There can never be another ———, owing to its close proximity to

the metropolis, and affording, as it does, such ample accommodation for a large number of visitors. I have always said that, if it should please Providence to place me in easy circumstances, ——— would be the place I should select for my permanent residence. And I am happy to say that fortune has smiled upon me, and I was only too happy to reside among you and to be of any service I could in your local government. I cannot forbear to allude to the excellent set of men I find at the Board of Guardians, a member of which Board the Vestry have done me the honour of electing me to since my final retirement from active business pursuits. The members of that Board are equal to any set of men in the kingdom. I say that in all sincerity. This town has many real natural advantages, and I trust that it will continue to prosper, that it will keep pace with the modern improvements of the age, and never be found to be a day's march behind. Gentlemen, for your patient hearing I thank you, and will conclude my remarks by giving you—"The Town and Trade of ———."

Response.

Mr. ———, on rising to respond to the toast, begged to thank Mr. ——— for the handsome manner he had spoken of the Town and Trade of ———. He might say that, as far as the Trade of ——— was concerned, they did endeavour to uphold that straightforward position to which Mr. ——— had alluded. He might say that he had much to be thankful for to the Town of ———; he commenced his business-life in the town, and success had crowned his exertions, therefore he thanked them all heartily and most sincerely;—Mr. ———

for proposing the toast, and the company generally, for the manner in which they had drunk to the success of "The Town and Trade of ———."

Response.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I thank you for the hearty manner in which the toast was drunk, but I am not so much obliged to my friend Mr. ——— for naming me in connection with it. Mr. ——— would have done more justice to it, and was more entitled to the honour of being coupled with it. I can, however, tell the gentleman who submitted the toast that the Tradesmen of this town have only done what it was their duty to do,—improve the town, and make it more acceptable and more enjoyable for those who kindly favour us with their presence and patronage. Expenditure in this direction is for the mutual advantage of both parties; and to those of my fellow-townsmen whom I see around me, and who have not yet had so much to do with the world as I have, I would say,—"Always throw a sprat to catch a mackerel." You may depend upon it our visitors will not come to us if we do not make it worth their while coming; and without them what would the Town and Trade be? Gentlemen, I thank you for the toast.

May trade and manufactories be unrestrained by the fetters of monopoly.

'The Town and Trade of ———," may its prosperity become as unbounded as its resources and industry are unbounded.

Success to the trade and manufactures of the Town of ———.

Success to the protectors of commerce and the promoters of charity.

RAILWAY.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE ——— RAILWAY.

GENTLEMEN.—The next toast on my programme is "The Directors and Officers of the——— Railway,"—and it is a toast that I have much pleasure in proposing to you. These are the days of steam and progress. The days of coaching are now numbered with the past. A great change has come over the spirit of the dream since our boyhood; many present will remember that it took our coaches—hours to reach the Metropolis, and at a cost of about three times the amount of money we now pay to go the same distance by railway; also about six times the amount of time. In the days of our fathers, to journey to London was considered a great event in a man's life, and required many grave considerations before venturing on such a perilous undertaking. For weeks prior the whole household was in a state of disorder; careful wives and far-seeing mothers-in-law thought it prudent that the unhappy wight who had to undertake the journey to town, should previously go to the solicitor's and make his will. The old family blunderbuss had to be cleaned up, its lock greased, its flint reset; there was a knitting of hose in the shape of long stockings, and warm night-caps. Bank notes were "herring-boned" into the breech of his unmentionables, guineas were

ingeniously covered with cloth to look like buttons, and sewn on various parts of his habiliments, so as to trick and deceive the Dick Turpins, Jerry Abershaw's, Claude Duvals, and other gentlemen highwaymen of the road. The adventurous man had presents made to him by his friends and neighbours, consisting of plum and seed cake, bottles of home made wine, huge slices of gingerbread, a bottle or two of Hollands, and five or six comforters to keep out the cold. He was recommended to keep his courage up and his powder dry. He spent the night previous to his journey in the same manner in which we read of criminals doing,—that is, in writing letters to his friends and relations. In the morning he took an affectionate farewell of his family and was then launched —— on the road—and there for the present we will leave him. But, Gentlemen, those days and times have passed away as belonging to a bygone state of manners and civilisation. We now travel, think, and do everything faster than was done of yore. These are the days of steam and railways; in fact, this has been aptly termed the iron age. What should we do now without railroads? The question is by far too gigantic and speculative to go into to-night, and had therefore better be deferred and looked into this day six months, as the Parliamentary people say. In the meantime, we will admit the fact of the Railway, and of its Directors and Officers whose health I am about to propose to you. This town is not only very fortunate in having a good and efficient railway with able Directors, but it has also civil and obliging officers, who are at all times ready and willing to meet any question that may arise as to public or private convenience. Of course, there always were, and ever will be, a host of grumblers who are always complaining

about the railway not doing this or that, or not putting on a train to so-and-so just at the identical time that they, the grumblers, deem the proper time, and so forth. But I am happy to state that I have always found the officers of our railway ever ready and willing to listen to any want felt to be required for the general public convenience. In doing business with a railway official you must have a real grievance—not an imaginary one. Call at his place of business in business hours, transact your business in a business-like manner, then go about your business, to enable the railway man of business to transact his portion of business in a business-like manner.

Railways afford us many opportunities of visiting distant parts at a very moderate cost; and, whether looked at from a business point of view, or from one of pleasure, are a great boon to a numerous class of persons.

Railways annihilate space; it is no longer, How many miles is it to so-and-so?—but it is, How many hours or minutes is it? Persons residing at any distance from the great metropolis can have their newspapers and letters on their breakfast table, where formerly they had to wait until the next day before they could have them delivered to them.

Railways enable many hundreds of persons to reside in the country, and come to the town during the business hours of the day. Such an arrangement is conducive to health and recreation. It is a Season Ticket *v.* The Doctor. In short, from whatever point you view railways, the public have and will continue to derive, from time to time, many real advantages from them.

The town and inhabitants of ——— are much indebted to the indefatigable zeal at all times displayed

by Mr. ——, of the —— Department. As a station master, Mr. ——— is much respected by all persons having business or seeking pleasure on the line.

Gentlemen,—I beg to propose "The Directors and Officers of the ——— Railway," coupling that toast with the name of Mr. ——, of the —— Department.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE ——— RAILWAY.

Mr. ALDERMAN ——— proposed "The Directors of the ——— Railway." During his two years of office, he said, he was several times in communication with the railway authorities, and could state that they assisted him most materially in all that pertained to the benefit of the town, especially in obtaining the ———. He could also say that many of them assisted with their private purse, independently of the Company.

Response.

Mr. ——— (Chairman of the Directors), in responding, could assure the town that at all times he and his colleagues would carry on the business of the Company in such a manner as would secure the convenience and safety of the passengers entrusted to their care, which was no slight responsibility. They had hard work in their anxiety to do justice to every one; and they would do all in their power for the interest and welfare of the town. He would take the liberty of mentioning that they now had under consideration many improvements, and that they had also determined to run trains between ——— and ——— far quicker than at present.

Most of those trains were now separated at———. but intermediate ones would run through, giving passengers the opportunity of using either the station at——— or at———, without the train being separated or waiting to be connected to.

Toast.—By a Tradesman.

"THE——— RAILWAY AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.'

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—The "Town and Trade" has been given and responded to, but what, I ask you, would either be without the Railway. I will not speak of the identical interests of a town and its railway—they are patent and understood by all; and every one has for a long time looked upon the discovery of steam as a propelling power to be the great civiliser of the world; the medium of communication between the antipodes—the annihilator of space, as the electric telegraph is the annihilator of time. I will not, I say, dwell upon these. But what would all these great benefits be without proper management? I can safely say that there is no better conducted line in the kingdom than the ——— Railway, therefore our thanks are justly due to the Board of Directors and their Officers. As "good wine needs no bush," I at once call upon you, gentlemen, to drink their healths in bumpers.

Response..

GENTLEMEN.—In the absence of———, I beg to thank you for the very handsome manner in which the last toast was responded to. Such a recognition of our services is the more gracious because we are but servants of the public, whose interest the Board make it a point of studying; for whatever benefits the one results to the advantage

of the other. I hope I can also say, without being deemed egotistical, that they possess a staff of officials second to none in efficiency; a fact which is attributable to the liberality received at the hands of their employers.

Toast.—THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE——— RAILWAY.

GENTLEMEN.—The next toast I shall present to your notice will be "The Directors and Officers of the——— Railway," and in doing so I can but allude to the great progress which the Railway has made during the last few years. The Company are now building almost a new terminus, entirely, I believe, for the convenience of the people of this town. Whenever anything arose which would be an advantage to the town, the Railway Company always contributed most liberally.

Response.

Mr.——— responded, and said he believed there was a very cordial feeling of respect and confidence between the town of——— and the Railway Company. He had had the pleasure of attending these meetings for some years, and it had generally been admitted as a fact that the interests of the Railway and of the town are identical. No doubt that was so, and it should follow that the town and the railway should at all times concur in promoting those interests.

"I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes."—*Shakespeare.*

CONSTABULARY.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE CONSTABULARY OF ———."

GENTLEMEN.—Again, I must ask you to join me in another Toast, and this time to a body of men who have rendered and still are rendering essential service to the country, I mean the ——— Constabulary. It has been said there is no good without its relative evil; but this much may be said of the ——— Constabulary—they do not create the evil, but strive to suppress it. It is true that if no evil existed in the world the office of a police constable would be the truest exposition of a sinecure; but we know evil does exist, and, in order to keep this evil somewhat under control, no better means have been yet devised than the Police Force, and to that body in general, and the Constabulary of ——— in particular, are we indebted for the quiet and safety in which we live. It is with feelings of pleasure, then, I propose to you "The Constabulary of ———."

"Quoth Hudibras, 'Friend Ralph, thou hast
Out-run the constable at last.'"

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE CONSTABULARY FORCE OF ———."

GENTLEMEN.—The Army and Navy and Volunteers have received full justice at your hands, and they deserve all that has been said of them; but there is another force which does not at all times have the compliment paid them at such gatherings as this, I mean the Constabulary Force; and I can with truth say that our own is composed of men who perform their duties with the greatest satisfaction to all classes but one,—I mean those vultures of society who prey upon the property of their neighbours. The Constabulary Force, the civil arm of the law, is as much entitled to our thanks as the Military or Naval. Their deeds may not be so brilliant, because of a different character; but they are at times exposed to much danger, and endure great hardships, especially in the winter months of the year, when they not only run the risk of the deadly blow from the burglar or garotter,—species of the *genus homo* from which this town is happily free,—but their duties invite the attack of that more invidious and stealthy enemy, consumption; and these risks they run that we may sleep in safety. In calling upon you, then, to drink to the health of "The Constabulary Force," I shall couple with it the name of Mr. ———, Chief Officer of the ——— Police.

Response.—By the Chief Constable of ———.

GENTLEMEN.—I thank you for this kind acknowledgment of our services, and will not detain you by any observations beyond referring to one remark of

the Gentleman who proposed the toast. He said this town was happily free from the depredations committed by the burglar and garotter. And so it is; but it is not because they have not visited us, but because, acting upon the principle that "prevention is better than cure," whenever a suspicious character enters the town he is closely watched; and they, not liking the attentions paid by the "young man dressed in blue," quickly migrate to other places where there is a clearer field for their operations. It is a fact, not generally understood, that the thieves of this country are the best judges of the efficiency of a police force; and I doubt not whether a report from them would not be more serviceable than those of the Government Inspector. I say this in all due respect, because that Gentleman investigates only the "internal economy,"—as our military friends term it,—of the force; and he cannot have the opportunity of practically witnessing the aptitude of a man for detecting and capturing a thief. With these remarks, Gentlemen, I return you my most sincere thanks for the honour you have done that service, of which I am but so humble a member.

Speech.—By Chief Constable of ———, responding to the Toast of the Constabulary.

MR. CHAIRMAN, VICE, AND GENTLEMEN.—I feel that I cannot let the toast of "The Constabulary of ———" pass by in silence, although I rise with some amount of diffidence to respond to it. My avocation affords me but few opportunities for speech-making, at which I am at the best of times but a poor hand; but, as I have before observed, I cannot let this opportunity pass by without saying

a few words. I am pleased to hear from your Chairman that the conduct of the Constabulary of ——— has merited your esteem and approbation. The police have a very difficult part to play, and it is next to an impossibility to be enabled to please everybody; our duty is stern, and has to be carried out without affection or favour to any class of individuals. When duty calls, it is the business of the police to obey. In preventing crime, or detecting it after it has been perpetrated, requires at times great skill and energy. And I believe that the police of this country numbers amongst its officers and men an immense amount of talent and general efficiency, which will bear the test of comparison with any other nation. Great improvements have been introduced into the system during the past quarter of a century, and will continue to be so. When we throw ourselves back but for a comparatively few years to the times of the Old Watchmen,—the Old Charlies as they were termed in the days when Tom and Jerry flourished,—the great improvements that have taken place since then stand out boldly. Men who now enter the police as officers are expected to be of good education, very different to the watchmen of old. Our immortal Shakspeare has left us the model of the watchmen of former days in the person of one Dogberry, who informs us that "Our watch, sir, have, indeed, comprehended two auspicious persons." With all the difficulties that arise in carrying out the regulations of the police for the maintenance of peace and good order, we are pleased to hear that we have given satisfaction. The enthusiastic manner in which the toast was received by you this evening is very flattering to us, and I shall not fail to inform my fellow-officers and men of the manner in which we were spoken of by the worthy

Chairman of this evening. I have had the honour to belong to the ——— Constabulary for ——— years. During the whole of that time I have met with the greatest possible respect from the gentry around.

I have had the honour of being Chief Constable of the ——— Police for ——— years, and I am proud and happy to inform you that I rose from the ranks. I entered the ——— Police in the year ——— as an ordinary constable, and have been inspector, superintendent, and for ——— years the Chief Officer; and, from the numerous panegyrics that are continually passed upon my conduct at social gatherings akin to the present, I cannot but regard them, as feeling confident that I have carried out my arduous duties to your entire satisfaction. I am very happy to inform you that crime has very much diminished, not only in my district but all over the country; as, according to statistics presented at the last Quarter Sessions, there had been a diminution of —— per cent.

* * * * * *

For the kind manner in which you have proposed my health I have to thank you most heartily —most cordially—most sincerely.

THE LADIES.

Toast.—"THE LADIES."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—A pleasing task has been deputed to me—it is to propose the health of "The Ladies,"—and surely no more delightful task can be imposed on any man. The only drawback I feel in the matter is the assurance of my own incompetency, and that is increased when I feel how immeasurably they are above us in all that elevates and ennobles our nature. Burns must have been embued with this spirit when he wrote the lines—

> "Her 'prentice han' she tried on man,
> And then she made the lasses O!"

Well, we all know the value of the Ladies, and how essential they are to our happiness. Who is there that cannot remember gratefully the home of his childhood, the tender care of his mother, the undisguised love of his sister, and the affection of both—a love and affection so pure that neither time nor space can lessen it, that sin even cannot quench, nor disgrace obliterate. There is surely something holy in this—something that whispers of heaven and pours its balmy influence over the rugged nature of man—that bids us pause in our forward course, and listen to warnings breathed from bosoms warmed with the purest love vouchsafed to man on earth.

Or, when racked by pain we lay the weary head upon the pillow in helpless exhaustion, what hand but woman's can smooth that pillow, what foot so light as hers, moving about in earnest anticipation of our every wish, gliding like an Angel to supply our wants as quickly as they arise, ever constant, never tiring, but with unwearied zeal watching, watching, watching—and oh! the music of her silver voice. Who is there that has recovered from a bed of sickness and forgotten the melody of the voice of her that soothed him in his anguish. And now whilst we are here in health enjoying the pleasures of this night, let us not forget the Ladies, but shew them that at least we can be grateful. "To the Health of the Ladies."

Toast.—"THE LADIES."

GENTLEMEN,—The toast which I have had placed in my hands is one that is often given with a formality and a levity that does an injustice to its claims upon us the "Lords of Creation," as we are pleased to pompously style ourselves. But our position would be a most pitiable and helpless one without the ladies; and I hope to see the time when they will be raised to that social position which they ought to occupy on such occasions as this. Sharing as they do our troubles, and ministering to our afflictions, they ought to be participators in our pleasures; for woman was made to be the companion of man, and is in every respect but one his equal; that exception being her physical capacity. This is her only inferiority, and the protection which is in consequence her right, is too frequently construed to mean subjection, and hence the unimportant position which she occupies in relation to man in society in this

country, and, in others, places upon her the ban of slavery. Nearly all of us have experienced and remember a mother's watchful care, most of us know the power and sincerity of a sister's love, and many of us can testify to a wife's affection; and upon these grounds alone I ask you to drink to the health of "The Ladies." Did time permit I could detail many instances of their heroism, devotion to man, and wisdom,—as instanced even by the names of Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale, and our beloved Queen,—but I must conclude by calling upon you to drink the toast, and ask our young friend, Mr. ———, to respond to it.

Response.—By a Bachelor.

GENTLEMEN,—Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to acknowledge on behalf of the ladies the honour which you have done them, and which is justly their due; but though I cannot speak of them with the experience of the gentleman who proposed the toast, I have felt the power of both a mother's and a sister's love; and I trust, some day, to know what the affection of a wife is like. The proposer of the toast has gone so fully into the merits of the ladies that any observations I could make would be but travelling over the same ground. Therefore, I must content myself by tendering you my heartfelt thanks for the manner in which you received the toast.

Response.—By a Bachelor.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in rising to acknowledge the toast of the Ladies, which has been proposed to you by Mr.

———. Of woman's worth every poet in every clime has written and sung, so that little need be said by me on this occasion, for in whatever phase of life we behold the ladies,—whether as sisters, mothers, wives, or widows,—they shed lustre around the circle they are destined to occupy, and from the cradle to the grave may be truly said to be man's best companion. There are times and places when stern custom exacts—and who denies her sway?—that ladies are not permitted to be present, to speak for themselves; that task has therefore devolved on me, and although I feel that I cannot do justice to their many virtues, I am proud to have an opportunity of making the attempt, however feeble. Therefore, Gentlemen, on behalf of the ladies, whom you have "toasted" and pledged, I thank you, and will conclude in the words of Otway, who has sung:—

Oh, woman! lovely woman! Nature made thee,
To temper man—we had been brutes without you!
Angels are painted fair to look like you;
There's in you all that we believe of heaven,
Amazing brightness, purity, and truth,
Eternal joy, and everlasting love.

The light of love—Woman.

Woman's smile and woman's tear—one to enliven, the other to soften the heart of man.

The girl that is witty,
The girl that is pretty,
The girl with an eye as black as a sloe;
Here's to the girls of each station
Throughout Britain's nation,
And, in particular, one that I know.

THE PRESS.

Toast.—"THE PRESS."—*By the Chairman.*

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN.—I rise for the purpose of proposing to your notice a toast which I am sure you will all heartily respond to,—it is to the free, unfettered "Press of England." Gentlemen, the mighty power for good or evil that this engine possesses is so extensive that it has been called the "fourth estate;" and looking around us and seeing the vast improvements in our social condition, that owe their origin to the press, we can justly endorse the saying,—"King, Lords, and Commons have each their influence and their sphere of action, but to a free and enlightened press only is it given to be the palladium of a people's liberty." Let us open the page of history and read the lesson of the past, and the tale we shall learn from all nations and peoples will be, that in proportion to the measure of pure and truthful literature disseminated amongst them, so did they rise in their social condition, and shake off the manacles of superstition and tyranny;—the very essence of tyranny is ignorance, as truly as liberty is the result of knowledge. Trace we back to more recent times, and let us summon to our remembrance the long list of privileges enjoyed by us that to our grandfathers were a sealed book.

They deserved as much liberty then as we have now; they could as keenly appreciate the mighty benefits to accrue from the liberty of the press as we, and yet it was denied them; ought we not then at all times when opportunity offers to show our gratitude to an institution that has wrought so much in our behalf, and to which we owe our present exalted prosperity—a prosperity unparalleled in the annals of any country. Gentlemen, "The Press of England," coupled with the name of Mr. ———.

Toast.—"THE PRESS."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—Having been requested to submit to you the next toast, that of "The Press," I do so with unmingled gratification; and knowing full well that you all appreciate what the "fourth estate" has done for the people of this country, I propose it with the full assurance that it will meet with a most cordial reception. Far greater conquests have been made with the pen than with the sword, and the utility is in proportion as its power is wielded for good or evil; and we ought not to feel surprised at the manner in which it is sometimes "gagged" in countries less free and enlightened than this happy island of ours, seeing the immense influence which it has with a people and the direction which is sometimes given to that influence—inflaming the discontented and poisoning the minds of the loyal. This I am happy to say is not the policy of the press of England, and since the removal of those duties which were rightly called "taxes upon knowledge," a still more healthy tone has been given to the literature of this country, and the news-

paper, instead of being the luxury of the rich, has become the daily necessity of the middle and lower classes. I need not dwell upon the rapid strides which have been made in the art of printing from the day when Caxton submitted his first proof sheet to the present time, when a speech delivered overnight is laid upon the breakfast table two hundred miles distant the next morning; and therefore I will at once call upon you, gentlemen, to drink the health of those who toil hard with brain and hand to furnish us not only with information but instruction. Although I have thus spoken in general terms of the profession, I am not unmindful of the local press, which is conducted with a talent and impartiality not excelled in any town in the kingdom, and in giving the toast, I couple with it the name of Mr. ———.

Response to the Press.—By a Proprietor or Reporter.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—I look around the room and fail to see an older member of the press than myself, the duty therefore shall be mine to thank you for the compliment just paid.

Sir, you have been pleased to speak of the Press of England as a free and enlightened press, as the forerunner, or great pioneer of civilization, and as the palladium of our liberties—all this is true. True also it is a mighty power for good or evil: *for good*, when exercised in searching after truth and correctly leading the people, and then deserving all honour; *for evil*, when prostituted to the lust of gold, and then deserving the utmost detestation and contempt. Had Hampden or Pym in their days this great engine at their command, the life of a foolish good

man, but bad king, would not have ended on the scaffold, and England might have been spared her long years of bloodshed during the Commonwealth, and yet have achieved the same greatness abroad. Some author has said, "Let me write the ballads of a people, and I care not who makes their laws." There is truth in this, and it foreshadowed the great influence the press was to wield—and will wield let us trust ever in England—for good; that our progress may stimulate surrounding nations to shake off the shackles of ignorance and superstition, and walk erect upon the earth in perfect freedom, as God intended; that man shall not enslave his fellow-man either in body or mind, but each shall live for the other in unity and peace. Then will the press have accomplished its mission; but until that time does arrive there must be no rest, no weariness, but onwards and upwards in our search for truth. This is the province of a free press—to gain the goal our reward. Gentlemen, I thank you.

Response.

Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Gentlemen.—At this late period of the evening it is not my intention to inflict upon you a very lengthy speech, but I consider an acknowledgment is especially due for kindly including in your toasts "The Fourth Estate," "The Press," of which, with pride, I subscribe myself a member. Though represented by gentlemen who will carefully record all that has transpired this evening, I feel it my duty to attend upon this occasion as certainly the senior, if not the only exponent of the Liberal ——— cause in ———, so far as the press is concerned. The occasion is a very happy one,—the assemblage of a large

body of the industrial classes, united, "Liberals," in every sense of the word, and intent upon doing honour to one who, during his term of office, has truly represented their interests. Without desiring to throw the slightest disparagement upon our excellent friend Mr. ———, even if I associated him with yourselves, as one honestly "obtaining his bread by the sweat of his brow," it would not be any disparagement, I must be allowed to add, that Mr. ——— has, by a long and laborious life and residence in this and other countries, acquired such practical knowledge as to acquaint him with what is best for the humbler classes, and how best to improve their condition. With such a foundation, the cause of the working men may safely be entrusted to Mr. ———, who has honoured us by his presence this evening. But to return to the subject of "The Press," which you have honoured us by proposing, I may be permitted, perhaps, to quote an extract from a speech of the Hon. Spencer Walpole, M.P., at the Newspaper Press Fund Dinner:—"We all of us know that there are many things which we familiarly enjoy, and do not appreciate because we so familiarly enjoy them; and in this country we shall never appreciate the enormous advantages of a free, unrestricted, and enlightened press, because we know that no legislation would presume to interfere with that freedom, or in any way to intrench upon the free exercise of public opinion, which makes itself heard through the medium of the press. I believe that when the future historian of this country writes the history of the last sixty-five years, he will show that during that period more progress has been made, more blessings have been conferred upon us, more advances have been attained in literature, in science, in art,

in everything we care for, than in any three centuries before. You owe that, in a great measure, to your public press." In conclusion, I beg to thank you for the compliment paid "The Press" generally.

The PRESS—the "tongue" of the country; may it never be cut out.

The Independent Press—the most important advantage that a free community can enjoy.

"'Tis to the Pen and Press we owe
Almost all we have and all we know."

The British Press—may it ever remain unshackled.

"The Press! the Press! the glorious Press!
Let all who value truth and worth
Esteem the glorious Press!
Without the Press what would we be?
Unlearned, unaided, and unfree!
It fears not the great—it scorns not the poor,
But comes in might to every door;
I love the Press—I love the Press,
May ne'er its members know distress,
And may its influence still prove true,
With wisdom and wit that is always new,
If a tyrant should rise, its powers to bind;
What matter, what matter?—what is wealth to mind?
What matter, what matter?—what is wealth to mind?"

THE FINE ARTS.

SPEECHES AT A DINNER OF THE ——— ART SOCIETY AND ART UNION.

The Mayor in the Chair.

"SUCCESS TO THE ——— ART SOCIETY AND ART UNION."

Toast.—By the Mayor.

The toast of "Success to the ——— Art Society and the Art Union" was proposed by the Mayor, who expressed a hope that from this evening they might date a new era in the history of this Borough. He believed that they were too much behind the spirit of the times in the patronage and encouragement they gave to the fine arts, but he trusted that it was not too late to retrieve their position, to make up for lost ground, and to set an example in this direction; and he trusted that those around the table would use their influence, each in his circle, to support this movement, and uphold the fine arts. He believed the progress of the fine arts to be the progress of civilization, and the progress of civilization to be the progress of virtue, and it behoved them all to do all they could to support the encouragement of the fine arts.

Response by a Member of the Committee.

Mr. ——— thanked the gentlemen present, on behalf of the Committee, for the cordial manner in which the last toast had been received, and with which his name had been specially connected. On looking round the room he could not but feel convinced that the large party assembled to do honour to the inauguration of the new picture galleries, proved the great interest now felt in the success of the Annual Exhibition of Paintings. He should, however, be wanting in candour did he not also add that, without the assistance of the Town Council, the Committee could have done nothing. The enlightened and generous policy of the Council, in adopting the proposal of the Committee for the conversion of a portion of the Town Hall to some useful purposes, remunerative to the ratepayers at large, entitled that body to the warmest thanks of the artists. The office which he had the honour to hold,—of Secretary to the Art Society,—though purely honorary as regarded emoluments, was by no means so in respect to work, for the midnight hour usually found him pen in hand, replying to numerous letters received during the day, and to which he could only attend after the active daily duties of his profession were concluded. Still, he felt amply rewarded for all the trouble and anxiety he had had, by comparing the quality of the work of this year's Exhibition with those which had preceded it, proving that the artists of London sympathised with the movement, and were now determined to send works worthy of their reputation. The contributors to those walls looked for more than honour—they expected their pictures to be sold—and if the gentlemen present really wished well to the Committee,

they must not allow the majority of the pictures to be returned to the artists, because, if that were the case, they could not expect another Exhibition to take place. Now, it would, perhaps, be too much to ask any person to purchase a picture of the value of £100, or upwards; but there was a way by which they could accomplish even this, and render infinite service to the Society at a small cost to themselves; and that was by subscribing for one or more chances to the Art Union, now in course of formation. At a recent meeting at the Town Hall, to establish this Society, the Mayor had been kind enough to take the chair, and as the objects contemplated by the Art Union were then stated at length, and fully reported, it would be sufficient to say that the subscription for each chance had been fixed at ten shillings. He wished also to add that the cost of establishing the annual exhibition was considerable, and that last year—although, by the kindness of the Town Council, they had the use of the room gratuitously—yet their expenses were £——, and this year they could not be expected to be less than £——. The Committee, therefore, wished to imitate the example of the late Society of Fine Arts, and to solicit the lovers of the fine arts to support them by guinea subscriptions, and he (the Secretary) trusted that those he was addressing would become subscribers to the ——— Art Society before leaving that room. In conclusion, he desired to take advantage of this opportunity to express publicly his acknowledgments to his brother artists for the generous confidence they had reposed in him, and which he felt the more because he had on frequent occasions been obliged to act decisively, and thereby incur considerable expense on his own responsibility, and it afforded him great pleasure to say that on all

occasions he had received the hearty support and co-operation of the Committee.

Response.—By an Exhibitor.

Mr. ——— responded to "The ——— Artists," in the course of which he remarked on the present state of feeling in this country in regard to Art. Public opinion on Art was in a transition state. The writings of Mr. Ruskin, the Pre-Raphaelite movement, and, above all, the introduction of Photography, had unsettled the public mind as to the infallibilty of old and previously received theories respecting Art, many of which, by the rising generation of artists, are looked upon as obsolete, if not ridiculous. Holman Hunt's famous *Light of the Word* was an illustration of this: twenty or thirty years ago it would have been denounced as an outrage on the good sense and taste of the community. The public, in fact, do not know what they are to censure or to praise; but he did not think this state of things would continue—he believed the sound good sense and the strong, sturdy spirit of the English people would eventually decide, with an authority beyond which there would be no appeal, what was to be considered high and noble art, and who was to be looked up to by his countrymen as the great painter of his day. Mr. ——— proceeded to speak of the necessity of securing for the ——— Exhibition the support of the public, and of artists of reputation, and expressed an opinion that the former exhibitions had done more harm than good, inasmuch as they had created a feeling on the part of the first-rate artists that it was of no use to send pictures to ———, because there is no good room to hang them in, and

no sale for them. This gallery had removed one cause of complaint, and the Art Union the other; and he did hope the ——— people would give them their hearty and cordial support, for if they did, each succeeding Exhibition would surpass the previous one, and they would ultimately see an Exhibition of paintings upon those walls of which ——— would have reason to be proud. The Corporation of London had set the example of enriching their edifices with the works of British artists, and he trusted that example would extend to ———, and that the ratepayers would not begrudge a penny or twopence in the pound when they had the gratification of witnessing the efforts of artists to glorify their common nature in the productions of their own fellow-townsmen.

SPORTING.

Speeches at a Dinner of a Race-Committee.

The Mayor in the Chair.

The Mayor said it devolved upon him now to propose a toast which more immediately concerned themselves,—"Prosperity to ——— Races, and the Race Committee." To go to the history of ——— Races, would be to go back to the history of ——— itself; but he had intended to say a word about English field sports, only Mr. ——— had taken the wind out of his sails; still he might say that racing was so closely bound up with the interest of England, that he hoped it would never die out. Every one, he was sure, was so well acquainted with the exertions which the gentlemen comprising the Committee had made to uphold the Races, and also with the labour and time it entailed upon them, that he need not eulogise them to ensure the toast being drunk with enthusiasm; and in proposing it he would mention the name of Mr. ———, the Honorary Secretary.

Mr. ——— responded. He did so with much pleasure, for he felt great interest in ——— Races, and he was much pleased to say that the good wishes of the past had been answered, and he hoped those of the present would be also. Not to inflict

upon the company a long financial statement, he would briefly remark, that the amount of public money given in ——— was second to the highest in the kingdom. He saw the other day, in a sporting paper, that it was held out as an inducement to support the ——— meeting, because they gave £——— public money; and he would here mention that that was to be run for in four days, but ——— gave £——— to be run for in three days. It was said that "money makes the mare to go," but he hoped it would cause the horses to come, and he was sure that if the efforts of the Committee were seconded liberally by the town, their future efforts would be crowned with success, and ——— Races be second to none in the kingdom.

Mr. ——— proposed "Prosperity to the Races and Trade of ———." The Races were an important feature in the amusements of the town, and he would urge on the people of ——— not to let them drop. Don't let gentlemen from Exeter Hall put them off the Races, nor be bullied into the idea that racing is wrong. It was of no use for people with new-fangled notions in their heads to say that men get drunk and women misbehave themselves; but, if they did, the real reason was the people so seldom had any recreation at all. He should always be happy to lend his support to these Races, which had progressed very favourably, and he trusted would develope to something still more important.

Mr. ——— said he was taken by surprise in being called upon to respond on behalf of the last toast. It was a very long time since he had the honour and pleasure of doing it, but perhaps he was the most proper person for the task present, as his whole life had been spent here, for he was reared in

the town of ——— and had risen with it. He wished the inhabitants would understand more fully the importance of their Races and other amusements, and also that all money brought into ——— circulated through every part; and that it was their duty to support all things which attracted or brought visitors to the town. He was sorry that many, because they did not derive an interest directly through the Races, the Fox-hounds, the Harriers, or the Cricket matches, did not feel disposed to subscribe to those amusements; but he could tell them that every farthing subscribed circulated in every small vein of the town.

The Mayor then proposed "The Health of Mr. ———, who was so intimately connected with their sports. Having been a trading man in ——— for some years, His Worship said he was entitled to speak with some authority, and he believed the town was very largely indebted to the Fox-hounds and the Harriers for its prosperity in the winter season. He need hardly state that it was no sinecure to conduct a pack of fox-hounds, for it drew largely upon a man's purse and a man's time, and the town therefore ought to feel deeply indebted to any gentleman who conducted such an establishment.

Mr. ——— said he hardly expected to have been called upon to address the company, but he felt gratified at what had been done, and thanked them for the honour. He could say of hunting what he said of racing, that it was one of the peculiar characteristics of Englishmen, and which he trusted would always be upheld. Had he not thought that a little hunting near this large town was necessary for the visitors, he would not have undertaken the management of the ——— Foxhounds, which he

had now had for ——— years; but he had been looking out for a successor, and he hoped that he should find one, for this part of the County was dependent upon its amusements, and he would always do all in his power to keep up a pack of foxhounds and support their Races.

Speeches and the Business at a Cricket Club Dinner.

The CHAIRMAN proposed "Success to the ——— Cricket Club." He had no statistics by him, or he might have been able to have introduced a few dry figures for their edification. He believed they had during the past season played about the usual number of matches, and out of them had won about as many as they expected to have done. He was sure they would all unite with him in hoping that the same good fortune would attend them next season.

Mr. ————, whose name had been coupled with the toast, responded, though he thought the duty ought to have devolved upon the Hon. Sec. He had frequently acted as Captain of the Eleven, and therefore had had an opportunity of seeing how successful they had been. He hoped the same might be said at the close of the next year's cricket. He then proposed in feeling terms that they should drink to "The better health of their Vice-President."

Mr. ——— said he could not allow this toast to pass without acknowledging it on the part of one whom they all knew, not only as a good cricketer, but as a genial friend, and one ever ready to assist anyone who might require his aid. They already felt how deep their loss was in missing for a time his ever cheerful presence, and though he regretted

to state that he was very ill, yet he trusted that their unanimous good wishes so earnestly expressed might be fulfilled, and that they should once more see him among them.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the health of one who had a most arduous and unthankful office to fulfil in connection with the Club, but who carried out the duties of his honorary office in the most admirable manner. He alluded to the "Honorary Secretary," who at all times studied the interests of the Club.

Mr. ———, the Hon. Sec., acknowledged that the office he held was no sinecure; but added that it was a pleasure to perform the duties for a Club of which each member was a gentleman. The great difficulty he had was in getting the members selected for a match to take their respective parts in it. Sometimes when a match was to be played, not one only, but two or three members did not make their appearance. Thus they had that day played sixteen instead of twenty-two against the eleven, and he believed that it was the first time the smaller number had been beaten by the larger. With a few more remarks, he thanked the company for the honour done him.

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Health of the Ground Bowler," who, though getting a little old, was a "good un" yet. He could manage to put in a pretty straight ball in spite of a little touch of the rheumatics every winter, as most of them knew practically. In fact he believed him to be something like the trees—he came out afresh every spring. He almost thought that there must be a little of the evergreen in him, for there seemed as much energy in him as ever each succeeding May. Every winter they heard the same sad story, and every spring

they found how little truth there was in it. He believed Mr. ——— would be good for a dozen years to come, at least.

Mr. ——— returned thanks, saying that no man could be better supported than he had been by the members of the Club, and while he could send a ball straight to the wicket, or was able to handle a bat, he should be proud to belong to the ——— Cricket Club. At the same time he felt bound to confess that his arms were not so lithe, sometimes, as they used to be, and he found he was getting old.

The "Health of Sergeant ———," who had acted as scorer, was heartily drank and responded to, as was also "The Health of the Chairman." That gentleman acknowledged it, and then proposed "The Health of Mr. ———, the Worthy Host," who had, on so many former occasions, catered for them, and much regretting that there were not more to partake of the good things provided. He thought the members of the Club ought on such an occasion to rally round one who had done so much for them. They ought to recollect how many difficulties and risks a person holding such a position had to put up with; and therefore it would have given him much pleasure to have seen the room better filled. The toast was responded to by Mr. ———, who then sang his favourite cricketing song amid much applause, and as a corollary gave "Success to Cricket."

Speeches and the Business of a Regatta Dinner.

The Chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to ——— Regatta." That which had last taken place was the ——— annual Regatta; he was happy to say they had ever progressed, had

never fallen back. The Committee certainly did from a laxity of paying-up on the part of some subscribers, think it proper somewhat to curtail their expenses, as also the amount given in prizes on the late occasion, hence it happened that the subscriptions having, after all, come in well, they had a larger balance in hand than they intended to have had. Last year, at their wind-up, they had a balance in hand of £———; they had since received as subscriptions, £———; and as entries for boats, £———. The subscriptions this year were more than they were last, the entries were also a little more, while, as he had explained, the prizes and expenses were somewhat less, so that now they had a balance in hand of £———. He would not take credit to himself; he was simply Treasurer, and his duty was to take care of the funds for them; but the person who did the work was the gentleman whose name he intended coupling with the toast he was about to propose—namely, their Hon. Secretary. Although he (the Chairman) was associated with him as an officer of the Committee, yet his duties were comparatively slight, while the Secretary's were very heavy. But he must take this credit to himself, that he was the person who proposed Mr. ——— for the office of Secretary some years ago. He was glad they reciprocated his own feelings towards Mr. ———; a proof of this was shown in the very handsome testimonial which it now became his duty to present to him. This testimonial was not to be regarded in the light of a payment for services rendered, but simply as a slight testimony to his worth and of the esteem they all felt for him. He had great pleasure in stating that the Committee had made him their mouth-piece for presenting this. Such as it was, he gave it to Mr. ———, hoping he

would use it for many years to come. He trusted the ——— would be handed down to his children's children, so that they might remember the time of their father doing his duty to his town and country, and try to emulate him—if they did so, they would come to great eminence.

Mr. ——— responded. He felt very proud of the testimonial with which they had just presented him, and he was the better pleased to find that he had given satisfaction to the Committee, with whom he had had many pleasant meetings. This was the first testimonial, in connection with the Regatta, that had been presented; ten years ago he had a testimonial presented to him on leaving the ———, and that he believed was the first testimonial ever presented to any servant of the Company, on his quitting their service. Referring to the Regatta finances, he expressed his pleasure that the subscriptions had, this year, somewhat increased. In conclusion, he desired to propose to them "The Health of the Chairman." He had seen him in various capacities during many years, and had ever found him to be one ready to assist in anything for the prosperity of the town and trade of ———. He had found him to be one of the best follows he had ever met, either in private or public life. He had never asked him to do this or that, but if it was in his power he had done it. As regarded the Regatta, he (the speaker) had had the credit of doing a great deal, but Mr. ——— had materially assisted him, and, appreciating his services as he felt they must, he called upon them to drink his health in a bumper.

The Chairman responded. His humble services he was always ready to give for the assistance of any one that required them, either publicly or pri-

vately. He felt as great pleasure in giving those services as they could possibly have in receiving them.

Mr. ——— proposed "The Regatta Committee," and spoke of the superior pleasure afforded by the ——— Regatta over that of any other Regatta on the ——— coast. The success of these Regattas showed that the ——— people were men of great power when they chose to put their shoulders to the wheel. There were still some chains around ———, and the sooner they were broken the better; he once had the pleasure of breaking one of these chains,—he alluded to their victory on the ——— question. Their Committee was small, but they had done great things; he proposed their healths, and coupled with the toast the name of Dr. ———, of ———, to whose exertions much of their success was due.

Dr. ——— responded, and further complimented Mr. ——— for his exertions, which had mainly conduced to the great success of this Regatta. At ——— they did not seem to put their backs to the Regattas, though they were a large town,—not like ———, so much smaller in size. He proceeded to notice the late unsuccessful attempt made in ——— to establish a Regatta. He believed, however, that, when they had another meeting, many who had opposed them before would be found ready to aid and assist them. He hoped to see the time come when ——— would be what it ought to be. It was placed in a most healthy position, as also a position of great beauty, every facility was offered for an Annual Regatta; they had a commodious harbour; and, with all these advantages, they might make the town something more than a small sea-port—they might make it a fashionable resort for visitors.

Dr. ——— proposed "The ——— Railway Company," a toast which, he observed, was not on the programme before them, but one which he was sure they ought to drink, considering how thoroughly the ——— Regatta was dependant for success on the liberality of the Railway Company, who both gave them a handsome donation, and generously conveyed boats and crews intending to compete at the Regatta free of expense over their line.

The Chairman called on Mr. ———, the Station Master, to respond to the toast, observing also that he had rendered great service to the Regatta. No one, except Mr. ———, had done more for the Regatta than had Mr. ———.

Response.

Mr. ——— responded. The Railway Company did all in their power to support Regattas, Races, Flower Shows, and every amusement on the coast. As a Committee-man he had endeavoured to do the best he could, and he never let any one pass that he thought he could get half-a-crown out of without asking him for it. If all the Committee would do the same it would be a great help. With regard to public improvements; for himself, he confessed his gratitude to ———, as from thence he had gained much information concerning the ——— question, and the movement that had there taken place led to steps being taken in ——— which resulted in their obtaining some measure of justice, though slight at present, from the ——— Companies.

EDUCATION.

On Middle Class Education.

The Chairman said, it must be admitted from statistics, that the movement was still in its infancy. If the great middle class of this country was to take advantage of the movement for the improvement of the education of their children, we must look for larger numbers at these examinations; but although the movement might be yet in its infancy, it certainly had already borne fruit, not only in the considerable number of candidates which, taking the whole country, had appeared at the examinations, but also in the attention which it had drawn to a very important subject. We had now had for many years a very considerable movement with regard to education in this country, and one thing at least we might regard as entirely established, indeed, as so completely established, that it seems unnecessary to allude to it —he meant the advantage of education. Many persons might remember the time when a great many people thought there was such a thing as over education, and that the best way to avoid such a dangerous result was to do without any education at all. These people, in order to avoid the Scylla of over education, drifted towards the Charybdis of no education at all. Well, we had got over this stage, and we were now all agreed that education was a good thing. Thanks to the exertions of many very distinguished

men, we had seen a very extensive system of education established for the lower classes—an education which we now saw embracing almost the whole people. By this remark he did not mean to say that more was not to be done, and that there might not be spots which the system had not reached, or that we ought to be content with the number of children who attended school; but the system was firmly established, and we might look for its continued progress until it embraced all the children who ought to attend school. While we had been introducing a good system of education for the children of the lower classes, we had not neglected the education of the upper classes. But hitherto we had done very little for one of the most extensive classes, and perhaps the most important class in the country—the middle class. He used the term "middle-class" for want of a better; in point of fact, the phrase embraced the great working population of this country, through whom the great wealth of the country had been accumulated, who constituted the backbone of English society, and upon whom the industry and prosperity of the country very greatly depended. There was hardly a political meeting at which the speakers did not dilate upon the great strength and importance of the middle-class, and upon the political power which it possessed. Well, if this class was the mainstay of our commerce, and at the same time a great power in the political system of this country, every one must feel that it was his duty to secure, as far as possible, the highest education to it. If we looked not only to the interests of the whole country, but to the interests of the middle class itself, he supposed no one would dispute that it was of the utmost importance that it should not fall behind in the educational race. When the

middle class saw, as it did now, the class below it continually rising in knowledge and education—and some remarkable evidences of intelligence and education had been shown in what he might term the upper part of the lower classes—it must be of the highest importance to members of the middle class itself that by their own exertions they should do everything to promote the education of their children. He thought we were much indebted to the universities for having taken this matter in hand. He was perfectly well aware that a very considerable portion of the middle class belonged to the Church to which he himself belonged—the Church of England; but a very large portion held different views, and as whenever the educational question was touched upon in this country, the subject of religion also arose—and properly so, because education without religion would not be sound—the fears and suspicions of a large body of the middle class might be aroused if the universities took the matter in hand. The conclusion at which he was rather driven to arrive—although he spoke hesitatingly, as upon a matter with regard to which scarcely anyone had made up his mind—was that the middle class must be in some way indebted to the Government in respect to their education. He should be the last person to wish to see the middle classes indebted to the Government for pecuniary assistance; and he thought it would be a most unfortunate thing if we were to put into the hands of the Government the whole education of the country, not only of the lower class, but of the middle class also. Such a policy might operate in such a manner as to produce considerable political changes, and might not commend itself to the instinct of Englishmen, who had acquired a great attachment to self-government; at

the same time, there were certain things which could be done through the action of the Government alone. The Government was the Government of the whole country, and could act quite impartially, which no body like the universities, even although they might be actuated by the best intentions, could do, connected as they had been so long with one religious body. With regard to endowed schools, he believed they were founded by men in advance of their time, and that if they could speak now they would be the last persons to declare that no improvements were to be introduced into their schools. They had in view the same objects which we had in view now; they wished to stimulate good education; they took things as they found them, and established what was then thought the best system of education; but, probably, if they could speak, they would be the first to declare that they never intended that their schools should not be susceptible of improvements. Changes in the letter of what founders of schools had prescribed, should not, then, be regarded too jealously, so long as the spirit of what they had prescribed was adhered to, and so long as the general principles which they had laid down were respected. While we were right in not allowing the Government to become possessed of the management of our affairs, we derived great benefit from independent inspection of what we did. Thus we had appointed inspectors of prisons, mines, and factories, and in every case in which we had applied the system, we had done so with marked success; and even those who had at first offered opposition, in consequence of the interference which they anticipated would be brought to bear upon their affairs, had themselves acknowledged the great benefit which they derived from the new policy. It seemed, then, to be exactly

the province of the Government of a free country to establish that which, after all, no part of a country could supply for itself—a general independent inspection brought to bear upon every part of it. Then, undoubtedly, there must be a system of examination; whether it could be best conducted through the universities, as at present, or through some other means must be left to experience to determine. It would be a great advantage if the connexion with the universities could be kept up, as certain venerable associations were connected with them, and the stamp of university approval carried with it considerable weight. It was a question for consideration, whether in connexion with the Civil Service, the Society of Apothecaries, the Law Society, and other bodies, certificates from these local examinations might not be accepted as a sufficient preliminary test,

Distribution of School Prizes.

The Mayor in the Chair.

The Mayor said they were met together for two objects: one was for the distribution of those prizes which had been gained by the pupils; and the other to receive the reports of the examiners. The first, he said was a very gratifying proceeding, and the second a very necessary one, in order that they should be made aware of the state of the school. No doubt with respect to the 5th and 6th forms these reports would be satisfactory; but he thought that the first form should receive the same consideration as the higher ones; because if the education imparted was not based on a sound and firm foundation the super-

structure would not go on satisfactorily. He merely threw this out as a suggestion to the examiners, for he was as yet unaware of the contents of their reports. His worship then congratulated the pupils on the prospect of a pleasant holiday, and expressed a wish that they might enjoy it, and that during their perigrinations in the country they would find

> Tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
> Sermons in stones, and good in everything,

and that they would return to their scholastic duties with renewed vigour and energy. Alluding to the School, his worship said that there was no doubt that they were going on as satisfactorily as any institution possibly could. His vocabulary of praise on its behalf—after having presided at these gatherings for several half years—was entirely exhausted. He was very pleased to see one of the patrons of the school present, Mr.———a gentleman who identified himself with everything which he believed to be for the good of his fellow creatures—and he happened to know that he attended that day with some inconvenience. Last year he had occasion to say a word of praise on behalf of the patrons, and as he was walking down to the Hall, just now, he thought that this time he would say a word or two for the working bees: the executive Committee. He had been associated with the gentlemen forming that Committee from the commencement; and if the proprietors were just to take a cursory glance at what they had been called upon to perform, he was sure they would all be thoroughly satisfied that much of the success and progress of the school was owing to their great exertions, for which, he was sure they were deserving of their highest encomiums. The masters had been most energetic in the discharge of their duties, and before he sat down he wished to observe that pupils

were submitted to the last Cambridge competitive examination, and, much to the credit of the master who brought them up, the whole of them came off successfully, and carried off either prizes or certificates. Now, he thought that went far to show that the school was carried on on a well organized system; when they took into consideration that the whole of these boys passed in five subjects, whilst two were sufficient to obtain a certificate. Such results must be gratifying to the pupils, the proprietors, and the masters, and he congratulated them on their success. He was pleased to see them going on so prosperously, and hoped they would continue to do so, as he knew they would under the present system. In conclusion his worship repeated his wish that the first form should receive as great attention as the fifth and sixth, reminding them that

> 'Tis education forms the common mind,
> Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined.

Mr. ——— then explained that this year the prizes were awarded in a different manner than they had hitherto been. It had been found out that some boys, finding themselves proficient in one particular branch of study, worked themselves up in that particular branch and neglected others; therefore they had determined to give the prizes to these who obtained the greatest aggregate number of marks on all subjects. In the matter of marks there had been a somewhat strange coincidence. The Examiners' marks for the first, second, and third boys entirely agreed with the masters' marks, which he thought furnished a proof of the justice of their awards.

Young Men's Christian Association.

The Chairman said that this was their anniversary, and probably it might be considered, comparatively speaking, an important Association for the time it had been established. It was once said by a statesman, "happy is the nation whose annals are vacant," and with regard to this Association, it was vacant in strife of any importance. It was established for the purpose of promoting Christianity. They cared little where the young men did worship so long as they worshipped under the banner of Christ.

The Rev. Mr. ——— said some would remember probably that last year he made a prophecy. Their friend, Mr. ——— said at that time that he expected it would be the last time he should have the pleasure of presiding at the meeting of the Association, and he, Mr. ———, prophecied that, through the kindness of his nature, he should have the pleasure of meeting Mr. ——— again. He was happy to say that prophecy had been fulfilled. He was sorry that they had hit upon an evening which would be inconvenient for him to remain long, as he had promised to be elsewhere. It was just one of those evenings when he might safely say, "Save me from my friends." in a new sense of the term. He hardly knew upon what subject to speak to them, but, seeing a number of young men present, it would not be out of place to say to them he should speak under three heads. One would fancy creation was born with three heads. Sermons were delivered under three heads, and everything seemed to be done under three heads. The first subject he should touch upon would be Intellectual life; 2nd, Ecclesiastical life; 3rd, Religious life. With regard to intellectual life,

they should all try to get the clearest ideas in their minds. He recollected getting a friend of his to look through a telescope, and he saw a bright speck. He, Mr. ——— put that telescope a little out of focus, and his friend was delighted because it swelled into a blur with bright colours, but, in fact, he saw nothing but a mist, and nothing clear. They must get their eyes to the right focus, otherwise they would see nothing but mist. How were they to get those clear ideas? They must not read those striped, green-backed novels, which they could buy for a shilling a piece, but which contained only trashy articles. He was not speaking against all the shilling books, for many of them contained excellent instruction. They should learn to study things which had stood the test of a century. They might shut themselves up and read such books as had stood the test of hundreds of years, and study them till they imagined that the writers were speaking to them as friends. It was a glorious thing to put one's self in communication with great men. With regard to ecclesiastical life, it almost made one out of spirits, for everybody seemed to hate what he thought wrong more than love that which he thought right. Now, such associations as these tended very much to do away with that feeling. Let them not be misled by words. Whilst they were on their guard against error of any kind, when they saw things glorious and true, whether in the expression of a living human being, or a past human being, let them sympathise with it. For his part, he liked to master his opinions, and he never would be the slave of a sect. Now, with regard to religious life. In these times of criticism and want of charity, he should like to find a little more private communication with God,—private prayer. It was in private that the heart could most effectually hold

communion with God, and it was their greatest privilege to be enabled to do so. If they found they had a nasty, critical feeling, and selfishness instead of a warm affection, let them retire to their closets, and, by private supplication and prayer, they would relieve their minds, which would be much better than dealing with phantoms, for they would then be dealing with the Lord of life.

This Association was a great movement amongst young men, and one calculated to promote their spiritual and social welfare, and he was happy to say it had made great progress. There was a religious earnestness in these Associations, and they were devoted to good works; and, as a consequence, were of beneficial interest to society at large. These young men's associations were organized throughout the world, and they had a wonderful moral influence in society. Young men were banded together for the good of their fellows, and to promote their moral and social condition. Young men in these Associations were well educated, well dressed, well fed, and enjoyed all the comforts of life that the heart could desire. Then where, it might be asked, was the necessity of such Associations, if young men were in themselves religiously and morally inclined? It was for the purpose of endeavouring to bring other young men to a proper sense of their condition who led a different life. Those young men were the representatives of a very large class of young men in large establishments and large warehouses, and were exposed to peculiar danger, by reason of the fact that many of them were only half educated, and received no proper training. The consequence was that such young men needed guidance as to the proper books to read, and the particular course they ought to pursue. Numbers of them were thrown into society without

friends, and the chances were that they would run into error. Then, if only half educated, they might be led astray, and shut themselves out of social enjoyment and intercourse with persons who behaved with moral rectitude. Again, it was wrong for young men to be always shut up with young men, for it tended very much to lessen their regard for their homes, to shut them out from that elevating position, the enjoyments af female society, and to render them oftentimes corrupt and depraved. Two years' experience in these Associations enabled him to speak of their usefulness and efficiency, and the encouragement they gave to habits of prudence and religion. These Societies were not merely Mutual Improvement Societies, but Societies in which each member was himself a missionary to bring young men to the influence of the glorious Gospel.

SPEECHES AT THE OPENING OF A WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND READING ROOM.

The CHAIRMAN explained the objects of the Institution, which, although based upon temperance principles, was not intended to be exclusively a teetotalers club, the great desire of the promoters being to induce their fellow-men to fit themselves precisely for the position in which God, by His Providence, had placed them. Whatever a man's capacity might be, he must not fill a position as a mere bookworm. It was not because a man was a literary man that he possessed a practical knowledge. It was highly necessary that a working man should have practical knowledge. With this object they desired to bring themselves into communication with

the working man, and see how far they could benefit that class. In order to have a thorough knowledge of the labouring men, they must place themselves in communication with them somewhere, and that could not be at a public house. Therefore, they thought it necessary to establish such an Institution as this. They wanted to estrange the poor man's desires from the public-house; but it seemed almost unavoidable, in the present state of things, to prevent him from going to a public-house. Men scarcely ever got intoxicated except at a public-house. He did not think men went to a public-house entirely for the sake of drink, but principally to enjoy society; when there, they often indulged too freely and rendered their homes uncomfortable. With regard to Mechanics' Institutions, they had been tried, but defects had been found in them, which it was now sought to remedy by the establishment of such Institutions as the one for which they were now asking support, where, by communication with the working man, they could obtain a better insight into his character, and learn how most effectually to assist him. The objects of this Institution were the social improvement of our neighbours, so as to lead to their happiness. Such Institutions as these were being established all over the country, where the more wealthy might meet the labouring man in social intercourse, and do that which would be eminently useful to him. He would go back to their great and immortal dramatist and quote him with reference to the Jack Cade riots. Then it was death for any but lawyers or parsons to write their names, and if a man had a book in his pocket with red letters in it he was a conjuror. Of a clerk, named Emmanuel,

Cade asks — Dost thou use to write thy name? or hast thou a mark to thyself, like an honest-plain-dealing man?

Clerk—Sir, I thank God I have been so well brought up that I can write my name.

Cade—Away with him, I say: hang him with his pen and ink-horn about his neck.

What a contrast was that mob to this meeting, attended by eminent clergymen and other friends, met to inaugurate an Institution promoted by excellent and able men, bent on imparting those inestimable advantages of knowledge now open to the poorest, of learning, probably more extensive than was possessed by that too-fatally learned person in the days of Jack Cade. What improvements had been made in society during the last forty years. He could point out to them when only a few years ago stacks and barns were blazing, when the Bristol riots took place, and when operatives marched out for the purpose of destroying machinery. Why did he do this, but to contrast the present with the past. Vice and immorality formerly stalked abroad in a frightful form, when the voice of morality and religion dared not raise itself. An article in the *Quarterly Review* had attributed much of the condition of the working men to the broad line which formed a social separation between the rich and the poor, and in order to remedy this evil there was no better means than by establishing such Institutions as the one they were met to inaugurate. Drunkenness was the great social evil of England, but he trusted by their endeavours and the good example set the drunkard by the temperate man, that drunkenness would in time wear itself out, and be eradicated from the length and breadth of the land. They must bear in mind that such Institutions could not long exist without the continued assistance of the rich, who would be abundantly rewarded for their exertions in giving encouragement to them, and

the poor would look upon them as friends and not as enemies, in which light the working classes were too prone to consider them. He would now conclude by moving the following resolution :—"That in the opinion of this meeting, institutes or clubs for working men, based on the principle of providing them with amusement and social intercourse and instruction, apart from the influence of intoxicating drinks, are deserving of the sympathy and support of the wealthier classes, and this meeting pledges itself to aid in the development of the ——— Working Men's Club and Reading Room now forming with these objects."

Speech on Schools of Art.

Mr.———said he had had great pleasure in accepting the invitation of the committee to be present, for the purpose of assisting in the distribution of prizes. He had always taken great interest in these schools of art. He regarded them as an important element in our national wealth and prosperity; and to explain that, it was necessary to go back to the Exhibition of 1851, as the starting point from which these institutions had originated. For the first time, in 1851, the manufactures and produce of every country in the world were brought together in one splendid building, designed by the genius of Sir Joseph Paxton. He might add, by way of parenthesis, that unless the genius of a Paxton had suggested that building, in all probability the working classes of the country, and not only the artizans, but the employers of labour in the country, would not have had an opportunity of seeing what other countries pro-

duced, and of comparing them with our own productions; but by means of that grand exhibition they were able to see in what respect we were deficient, and where it was that other countries excelled us. We were enabled to take a general view of the manufactures of the world, and of the produce of foreign countries, and by that means to raise our manufactures to the highest standard. It was discovered that there was one thing wanting to enable the British employers of labour to put this country on a footing with other countries, and that was the abolition of restrictions which prevented a general competition throughout Europe. But shortly afterwards the great treaty, which was one of the greatest boons ever conferred upon a country—the treaty of commerce with France—was concluded. By that treaty France was opened to a great extent to the manufactures and produce of this country, and a further foundation was laid to the great free-trade movement. Similar treaties had now been entered into with Italy, Belgium, and Prussia, and he hoped that Austria would soon be added. That great treaty for the first time gave that stimulus to the British artisan and the British employer of labour which was necessary to place them on a proper footing as regarded competition with the rest of the world. And had the Great Exhibition of 1851 or the treaty with France produced any result? He said they had, and that result had been shown in the exhibition of 1862. There the progress which had been made by England during the ten years which had elapsed could be fully seen. In 1851, that in which the English artisan failed was in matters of taste, where form and colour were principally concerned. France and some other countries were far in advance of us. For good substantial work no country equalled — certainly

none excelled—our own; but in beautiful and delicate combinations of colour and form we were behind France and many other countries. Yet it was a most remarkable thing that in 1862 we had so far gained on France and other European countries that the struggle was no longer to keep up with France, but it became a struggle on the part of the French to keep pace with us. The French Government requested the trades of France to send representatives to examine the produce and manufactures exhibited here in 1862, in order that they might make reports upon them. He had seen the reports which had been sent in, and in many instances he found that the French representative workmen stated that we were distancing them, and that it would require all their skill to keep pace with us. In particular, they alleged that they were in danger of losing ground in consequence of the increased skill and the increased appreciation of beauty in form and colour which was manifesting itself in this country. He held that to be a most interesting and important fact, and he would pause to ask how to a great extent this result had been gained. In consequence of the Exhibition of 1851 an institution was founded in London which, he ventured to say, was an honour to the country. He had seen nearly all the public museums in Europe of the same category, and, considering that the Kensington Museum had only been established for eight or nine years, he believed there was no institution in Europe which in so short a time could show such results. There were there the finest works of art of a peculiar character which could be exhibited anywhere, and they were altogether of a different character from those meritorious works which found a place in the British Museum. In the one collection there were works showing the

history of the world; while in the Kensington Museum there were works of art applied to the common necessaries of life. If a man wished to make a teapot or a teacup, he could go to the Kensington Museum and see at once what improvements the very latest science had introduced into the particular branch of art in which he was immediately concerned. Whatever might have been the object of the original founders of the Kensington Museum, the value of the institution was shown in the assistance and encouragement it gave to schools of art such as that which had been established in ———. These schools of art had already exercised great influence throughout the country. Everywhere might be seen the improvement of taste among manufacturers and the employers of labour, and among those who benefitted by labour. At one time nothing could have been lower than the art displayed by this country. Going back only for twenty or thirty years, he would venture to say that nothing could be more hideous than the works of art which were hung up on the walls of our dwelling houses—specimens of needlework by Sarah Ann or Betsy Jane, and an extraordinary kind of cats, with their heads suspended on wire, moving to and fro. And who was it that made them? The Italians—a people who had the very best feeling and taste for art, but who knew that if they modelled figures after the Venus di Medici or the Apollo Belvidere, they would stand no chance of being sold so long as those extraordinary cats could be procured. What was the result of the efforts of Mr. Wedgwood in this respect? Years ago he invented a most beautiful and classic form of pottery; but his manufactures had no success except among certain classes. The reason was that the taste of the people had not been formed. They had not sufficient

taste to appreciate such works; and, adequate remuneration not being afforded, the experiment failed. Taking into consideration all these circumstances, he thought that institutions such as this at ———, the object of which was to improve and develop the taste of the artisan, and to enable him to work with more skill than he had hitherto displayed, were eminently deserving of encouragement and support. It was most satisfactory to find that our exportation of works in which beauty of form and combination of colour were required had largely increased during the last few years. He alluded in particular to manufactures of glass and china. Formerly France enjoyed almost a monopoly in such matters; but we were now her equal, if not her superior. This fact alone was, he thought, a sufficient justification for the assertion that the establishment of schools of art had been a source of wealth and material prosperity to the country. They had assisted not only in forming the national mind and the national taste, but in enabling us largely to increase our exports to foreign countries. He would now turn to another part of the question —the enjoyment which schools of art afford to a large number of persons in the country. Let it not be supposed that these schools were intended alone for the artisan class. They were as important to the rich as they were to the poor. With regard to the upper classes, he might remark that the Kensington Museum was daily attended by many of them, and there the artisan had the means of improving his taste. These schools of art were rising up in various directions in London, and also in towns like ———, which could not be called either agricultural or manufacturing towns. But in many agricultural towns schools of art were being introduced, and he confessed that, when he entered the meeting, he

had no idea that he should have met so large an assembly as he had now the honour of addressing. He could not have believed that a school of art would have excited so much interest in ———. He did not think that anything could be better adapted to the improvement of the working classes than these schools of art. Their establishment had tended to the extension of similar institutions in different parts of the country. Having dwelt upon generalities, he would now say a few words upon particulars before delivering the prizes. His occupation had not given him many opportunities of inspecting the produce of schools of art, but he was perfectly convinced that they were proceeding in the right direction. His experience had led him to believe that those who send their children to those institutions expected too much from them at first. Now, no person could do anything well unless he began at the beginning. Many persons were apt to imagine that when they had been a week or two at a school of art, they could produce sketches of trees, or houses, or other things, of a perfect character; but that was a great mistake. But some persons had told him after some months' training at Kensington, that their previous notions had been wrong; and that the more they studied principles, the better artists would they become. The object of schools of art was to give a good knowledge of the elementary part of drawing, leaving the pupils to carry out the principles which had been instilled into them. Unless they were well grounded in these principles, they would never hold a high position. He sincerely hoped that the progress which had been made during the past year would be an encouragement to the friends of the school, not only to maintain it in its present high position, but to place it in one still higher.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SPEECHES ON THE EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT.

Mr. ——— said it was a very important subject which called them together—to consider the best means of reducing the hours of labour, so as to relieve the very numerous class of assistants who were employed throughout this important town. He held in his hand a resolution bearing on the subject which he read to them. In supporting that resolution it was necessary for them to consider, first of all the requirements and necessities of employers, and after that to see how far the assistants had a right to ask for the advantage of a reduction in the hours of labour. It was admitted—and that was one advantage to the promoters of the movement—that a diminution of the hours of labour should be granted; and the only question now for debate was, on what day this reduction should be made. Several in the town considered that Saturday was the day most suited, whilst a still greater number thought Wednesday would be more convenient to the shopkeepers and the general public, and more beneficial to the *employés*. No doubt there were strong arguments to be advanced in favour of either day by different trades living in different neighbourhoods; but

taken on the whole he believed the majority of the tradesmen would prefer to close on Wednesday at five o'clock in preference to Saturday, and therefore he submitted this proposition. He wished it to be thoroughly understood that he moved this in no spirit of hostility to those who had determined to close on the Saturday, but in order that they might arrive at a conclusion which day would be the most convenient and best adapted in order that they might secure one or the other, so as to make the cessation general throughout the town. Although the granting of the holiday on the Saturday evening would be a great boon to the assistants, he believed it would be found altogether impracticable to carry it out; whereas if Wednesday evenings were adopted, coming as they did in the middle of the week, it would not interfere with trade to the same extent, and would cause a break in the week's toil, which the assistants would look forward to, at the commencement of their week's labours on the Monday morning, with such pleasure as to stimulate them to unusual exertions, knowing that after that the remainder of the week is of short duration, and then comes the advantage of Sunday. He had heard some arguments urged against Wednesday, and some even went to this extent: That supposing the masters granted the holiday on Wednesdays from five o'clock, the assistants would abuse the privilege by going to theatres, music halls, and that class of entertainments, and would not devote the time to mental instruction and their own educational advantage. He thought that sort of argument was not altogether fair, because they could not judge until they had given them a trial; and he believed the assistants would seize with avidity the opportunity to improve themselves; and that ultimately the

employers would find that the granting of the boon would turn to their own interest and benefit. He believed also that they would have the advantage of two gentlemen present, who would give them entertainments which would amuse and instruct them. A very great complaint was now made, not only by the Clergy, but by many inhabitants, that their quiet on Sundays was very much disturbed by excursionists; and he believed that the excursionists coming amongst the shop assistants on that day caused them to depart from a proper observance of the Sunday—to give up the religious part of their duties, and spend Sundays,—the only day they got to themselves—almost entirely as a day of pleasure. If Wednesday evenings were granted them they might use that time in healthful amusements, and would feel a greater inclination to keep the Sabbath as it should be kept. The decision of the question did not rest so much with the employers as with the public itself, and they might depend upon it that if the public took the matter in hand and would not purchase after five o'clock on Wednesday evening, the trading community would be only too happy to follow.

Mr. ——— was an advocate for early closing, and had always made a rule of allowing the young men in his employ leave of absence one evening every week; but he very much doubted if, especially with persons in the same line of business as himself (family grocers) —would be able to comply with the request of the Mayor, for it was frequently necessary for them to fulfil orders at a moment's notice to meet the requirements of the upper ten thousand to whom they had to look for support. He was glad, however, to see the matter taken up in the manner it had by the drapers, and hoped they would carry it out as far as

practicable; but trusting that no ill-feeling would be engendered against any particular tradesman who did not close, for it might be impossible for him to do so, and it would only be doing the cause more harm than good. It was quite practical for half a dozen tradesmen of a certain orbit to agree amongst themselves to close on a certain day at a certain hour. If that was done he thought the movement would go on to success; but by the way they were now proceeding he thought they would never reach success. He appealed to Mr. ——— to urge upon the upper ten thousand the necessity of not purchasing at a certain time. The early closing movement was one which he thought would have to be done by degrees.

Capital and Labour.

The Chairman then rose to propose the next toast: "The Working Men of———," and in doing so reviewed the duties and relations existing between capital and labour. He believed that in every country it would be found that the prosperity and happiness of that country depend upon the prosperity and happiness and intellectual welfare of those who labour; that upon that labour depends the proper exercise and the proper investment, and the legitimate investment of capital; and that upon the two combined, depends the prosperity of the country. Upon labour depends the production of wealth, and every addition to its productiveness helps to increase that wealth, to diminish the cost of commodities, and to make them more easy of attainment. Their first object should be to encourage industry, and obtain for it a fair and just return.

The best mode of effecting this, is, to leave that industry as free as possible; to allow it to earn as adequate a reward as possible, to protect all persons in its enjoyment, and, by lessening the price of the necessaries of life, to increase the value of that reward. To effect these objects, property must be secure, and labour and commerce must be free from all restraint. Whatever gives the best direction to industry, and most facilitates its operation, favours the increase of wealth. But that requires capital, which possesses the power of putting labour in motion, of combining the work of many hands, of giving means and power of invention, of creating mechanical aids to labour, and ultimately distributing wealth, when it has been produced, to the greatest possible extent. It also incites improvements in machinery, for without capital the inventor cannot produce the improvements he has made. These improvements cause the employment of a more skilled and therefore better paid labour, and if such improvements reduce the cost of an article which is in large demand, they ultimately tend to the increase of the number of labourers, though at first they may appear to have the contrary effect. Without labour capital would be comparatively useless, and so upon the one depends the other. Now they came to the question: what is labour? Labour, like every other commodity, is simply a matter of sale or purchase. It has a natural price and a market price. The natural price of labour is that which just suffices, and no more, to provide the labourer and his family with the necessaries of life. The market price of labour depends upon the measure which the capital applied to the employment of labour bears to the number of labourers. If the measure of capital be great, the competition

of capitalists must raise wages, and, if the measure be small, the competition for employment by labourers, amongst each other, must reduce the price of wages. Should the accumulation of capital proceed more rapidly than the increase of population, wages would increase, and the condition of the working classes must continually advance, until either a check is given to the increase of capital, or until the growth of population, stimulated by a high rate of wages, should so far increase as to alter the relative proportion of capital and labour, and reduce the market rate of wages to the natural rate. Passing on to the question of wages, Mr. ——— said this led him to strikes, which, for the most part, arise from a desire on the part of the artisan to secure an increase in the rate of wages. He contended that every man has a right to sell his own labour at just what price he feels entitled to demand, but that no one had a right to prevent others from selling their labour at any price they may choose to value it at. He was one of those who thought that strikes temperately conducted, could not upon principle, be condemned, being often a protection for the working classes; but, where combinations of workmen, headed as they frequently are, by the more skilled and best paid among them, endeavour to carry out their particular views by threats, or molestation of their less skilled and less paid companions, then he held such combinations to be unjust. It had been suggested that Courts of Arbitration should be established to settle disputes, and Lord St. Leonards had introduced a Bill for that purpose, and he was willing to give that experiment every trial it could fairly deserve, but he confessed that he was not one of those who thought at present that the experiment was likely to succeed. He would

rather trust to the good sense, justice, and liberality of the master to make the hire worthy of the labourer, and to the justice and intelligence of the labourer not to demand a higher rate of wages than the investment of capital, and the risk attending it, would enable the master to give. In conclusion, Mr. —— said that he thought it right to give them his ideas on these subjects, in the hope that, as he was addressing a party of the working classes, they might take these things to heart. He also thought it right, in view of the coming election, to place his opinions before them, with the idea that if they were not their opinions, they could exercise as they best knew how, their opinions to put his down. However, if, on the other hand, they should think that his opinions coincided with their own, then he asked them to give him the benefit of their good wishes and their good feeling. For thirty years he had been one of those who had endeavoured, by all the humble means within his power, to promote and advance the welfare of the working classes. He never had, and never would, flatter them, at the expense of the other classes of the community. He had always told them that he believed them to be impulsive, that he knew them to be apt to be led away by the specious arguments of "professing" friends, and he believed in many instances their first impressions were not always right, but he also believed that, though impulsive, when the working classes came to consider matters calmly they judge wisely, and they are as open to conviction as any other class, and as readily come to a sound conclusion.

LAYING THE FIRST STONE FOR A HOME FOR CONVALESCENTS, AND ERECTING A STATUE.

The CHAIRMAN: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is my duty, as chairman of the committee to the subscribers to this memorial, and entrusted with the distribution of the money, to remind some of you, and to inform others, in a few words, of the purpose of our meeting here together this day. When, years ago, it pleased God to take to himself the late ——— there was one general and most spontaneous expression of public opinion amongst his neighbours throughout the whole of the County of ———, who were desirous that some permanent memorial might be established to remind them and future ages of the virtues of that excellent man. Whilst some of us desired that that memorial should be presented in a form that might be called a living man—his features and his figure—others were rather desirous that the memorial should be one that should remind them of the benevolence of his character and of all the virtues for which he was distinguished. After some long consultation it was agreed that we would have both the one and the other. Accordingly there now stands in the market-place of the county town of ———, a figure wrought in the highest walk of art, which no one passes by without involuntarily being reminded of ——— himself. The other memorial is that which we happily this day inaugurate in this place. Now, it is not a sanitarium—it is not a rival of the excellent hospital which has been built in this town of———, but it is a place where those who have been afflicted with infirmity and disorder, may by the blessing of God accomplish their recovery by medical assistance,

and may be restored to a perfect state of health before their return to their ordinary dwellings, many of which, as we well know, are unprovided even with the common necessaries and comforts without which their health can hardly be re-established. I must say, in the presence of a large assembly of the neighbours of———, and of the inhabitants of that town, that the manner in which they have kindly attended here to-day, and responded to the invitation which I had the honour to send, has given me a great hope that the good feeling which is shown here to-day may not be of a transitory and evanescent kind, but that it may follow the fortunes of the Home for years to come, that it may help us to give it a more ornamental appearance, and supply it with all the necessary furniture. Being thus on the spot I am sure it will be in their power greatly to conduce to the success of our undertaking. Now, it was finally resolved that this should be the spot, and the day was fixed. There remained only one choice to make—who should be the man that should be entrusted with the laying of the first stone. You will not be surprised if I say at once, and without hesitation, with the greatest accordance, all of us made application to my friend—the representative of the name and, I trust, hereafter the representative of the virtues of his father—to come here to-day to lay this stone. I shall not at the moment say one word of———. He has a hard task for a young man to perform; in doing it he will carry with him something more than goodwill—the attachment, I am sure, of every one of his countrymen. Nor shall I venture in this open spot to add one word with regard to ——— beyond this, that that kind, good, friendly lady is here on the spot to give us the sanction of her presence, and to see for herself with

what cordial affection the memory of her husband is regarded. Now permit me, all of you, my friends, with hearts filled with the memory of the past, filled with the best hopes for the future, trusting to the Divine blessing to turn out the work we now begin for the benefit of our suffering fellow-creatures, to call upon my noble friend, ————, to do that part which is assigned to him; and in doing it I am sure that every single person here will raise up a prayer to God that the rest of his life may be like its beginning. But, before the actual work is done, let us all, with one voice and one heart, raise our spirits to that source from whence alone permanent good can come, that God may be pleased to give His blessing to the work.

Mr. ——— duly laid the stone. He said:—It is with great pleasure that I have been asked this day to lay the foundation stone of a building to be erected as a memorial of my late father. A better or more fitting memorial could not have been chosen than this, which is for the relief of the sick poor; for all my father's life was spent in relieving suffering, which is an example, I trust, that his successors will follow. I am glad this memorial has been chosen in connection with an institution in which he took the greatest interest, and gave up many of his engagements in order to attend at the committees of the hospital. I am glad also that the plan has been approved of by ————, whose name has long been associated with that of my father in promoting the welfare of the poor. To-day is the anniversary of his birthday, and therefore a very fit time to begin such a work. My dear mother and my father during his life were accustomed to do some special work of charity and love that day. I wish to express on behalf of my mother, my brothers, my

sisters, and myself, our thanks and gratitude for your subscriptions to this fit and proper memorial to my father's name. We lay this stone of the ———— Home in the name and to the glory of the ever-blessed Trinity, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and in memory of one now gone to rest who, during his day upon earth, was faithful in works of mercy, brotherly kindness, and charity.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.—MEETING IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY FOR MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

The Mayor in the Chair.

The Mayor regretted that the chair had not been occupied by a naval officer, or some one who could give personal testimony to the character, habits, and feelings of that large and important class of men whose interests the meeting were assembled to promote. They often read narratives of sea disasters by shipwreck and fire, and discerned striking traits of tenderness of feeling mixed with courage and generosity in the British sailor, and observed in him a combination of the lion and the lamb. He (the Chairman) would not anticipate that which the meeting would hear of those men from the deputation from the Society organised to promote their welfare, but before sitting down would call attention to one salient point, that point which appeared to him to constitute the Society's strongest claims, and that was the helplessness of the merchant seamen and the debt we owe them, for without them what would become of our colonies and our commerce?—what would become of our Channel Fleet?—where would

England's power be?—and how much longer would she be able to hold out the light of civilization. It was calculated that England owned in the various branches of her maritime trade 20,000 vessels, employing 180,000 sailors—men constantly upon the deep, which at once was their element and their home, and who were exposed to more frequent perils than ordinary men; and it was also calculated that 1,000 vessels were annually wrecked upon the English shores. If their perils were imminent their privations were many, for while the ships of the royal navy had their own chaplains, the men of the merchant service had but a few books; and, if they possessed a Bible, had but little time to read it. Their minds were proverbially barren; yet they formed part of ourselves—were our brothers and our servants, guarded our coasts, maintained our honour, and preserved our property, liberty, and our lives, bringing for us from all parts of the earth the necessaries and luxuries with which our tables abound. Moreover, these men were our representatives; delegated by us they went to distant countries, bringing down upon us, by their behaviour, a blessing or a curse—favouring or injuring our efforts to bring nations to the knowledge of Christ, and all mankind in subjection to His feet. The object of this Society was to convert the larger ports into centres of evangelical light, to form each into a parish with a floating chapel, appoint to each a chaplain, and attach to it a boat by which apostolical ministration can be carried to vessels in the offing. Great were the benefits of the Society to the British sailor, who, he said, was invariably taken as a little boy from his parents' control, removed from his pastor in early life, and placed upon the deck of a ship, every man on board of which,

from stem to stern, was proverbially an ungodly man.

FORENSIC.

The ——— said: May it please your lordship and gentlemen of the jury, it is my duty to state to you the circumstances under which a gallant and distinguished officer in the Queen's service met with his death—Major———, who held the rank of—— in the army. He was a captain in command of a battalion of Engineers quartered at———. Major ——— was on parade with his corps upon the —th of——— last. The time was about—— o'clock in the day, when suddenly a shot was heard, and Major ——— fell, mortally wounded, into the arms of a brother officer. Major—— was standing at the time with his back to the barracks in which the men were quartered. The shot came from behind. It entered close to the shoulder blade, passed through a portion of the lungs, and came out at his breast; and was seen to raise the dust. It had passed clean through him. Major——— lingered for some time, and hopes were entertained for a few days of his recovery, but he died of his wound —— days afterwards. Of course, immediate inquiry was made as to the man who fired the shot, and he was found without any difficulty. Precautions were immediately taken to prevent the escape of anybody from the barracks. Sentries were placed at the front and back entrances, and Mr.———, a lieutenant, immediately went to the room from which it would appear the shot had been fired. The prisoner was a recruit in that corps; he had joined it about —— months before. On that morning he was excused from parade, on the ground of having some other duty. Another man of the same corps named ——

was also excused. ———— occupied a room immediately adjoining the room occupied by the prisoner, which opens upon the barrack-yard. ————, whom I shall call before you, heard the shot and saw Major ———— fall. He immediately called out to the prisoner, who was close by, "My God, Major———— is shot." Upon which, as you will hear from————, the prisoner said, "I shot him. Why shouldn't I shoot the brute?" or something to that effect. ———— of course gave immediate information, and in consequence lieutenant ———— went to the prisoner's room, and found him there. He smelt the gunpowder of the rifle that had just been discharged, and on examining the prisoner's pouch found that one of the charges was missing. Lieutenant ——— asked the prisoner whether he had shot Major ———, and he said "Yes." In no instance, from the beginning to the end, did he attempt to conceal the fact. It would have been no use if he had, for sentries had been posted so that he could not escape. He was, of course, immediately taken into custody, and kept for some time in the guard-room. Subsequently he was handed over to the Chief Commissioner of Police, in whose custody he has been until he was sent here to be tried. You will hear further that while he was in custody in barracks he made no secret of his crime. On the contrary, he appears to have gloried in it. He said that he had shot Major ——— because he had been a tyrant to him and to the other men in the regiment; that he had procured him punishment on various occasions; and that he had watched his opportunity while he could catch ——— apart, so that he might not shoot anybody else but him; and that, when he had found him in that position, he had shot him. During the lingering illness of

Major ———, which lasted ——— days, the prisoner said he trusted the major would not recover; and when he heard he had died, he said it was "all right." This is the narrative which I have to lay before you, gentlemen of the jury, and it is too painfully true. Perhaps you may inquire what were the grounds of the animosity which the prisoner appeared to entertain against Major ———, and you may very reasonably expect from me some information on that subject. I will give you what information is in my power; but in this, as in many other cases, violent animosity appears to have proceeded from slight cause. I shall call before you a witness named ———, a sergeant of the corps, who will tell you that a few months before the prisoner was on duty on what is called field-work; that ——— observed that he was idling, and informed him that it would be his duty to report his idleness to Major ———. On Major ——— coming to the ground, and this report being made to him, he told the prisoner he should not have his pay for that day. I think that pay—his working-pay—amounted to something like —. He appears to have felt very much aggrieved at this, for when Major ——— left he still continued idling, whereupon Sergeant ——— again requested him to work. He positively refused, alleging that he should not work unless he was paid for it. ——— then warned him that disobedience of orders was a more serious offence than mere idleness, and told him that if he deliberately refused to work he would be severely punished. The prisoner replied he would rather be punished than work, and accordingly he was imprisoned for — days. I am informed that Major ——— really knew nothing of the matter, and had nothing to do with it; but it would appear that the prisoner

thought he had been the cause of his punishment. I should state, however, that in consequence of the report which Major ——— thought it his duty to make to the commanding officer, Colonel ———, the latter thought proper to put this man and one or two others through a second course of field-work. I believe field-work is rather a laborious occupation, being the elementary course which the men go through before they are finally accepted into the corps, and which they do not much like. In consequence of that report of Major ———, directions were given by the commanding officer, by an order read on parade before these men, that two or three of them should go through the course a second time. The prisoner appears to have been extremely annoyed, and to have considered himself very much aggrieved by this, and imputed it to Major ———. This is all the information which I am enabled to give you upon the subject of the causes, if they can be called causes, of the animosity which this man appears to have entertained against his commanding officer. These are all the facts. These statements, which I have made as short as I can, will be proved by witnesses of undoubted credit. Indeed, it is seldom that murder is capable of proof by evidence so conclusive, for the statements I have made are not borne out only by witnesses. It would appear that this man ——— supposed himself to have been injured by Major ———, or rather supposed that he had sustained a series of wrongs from that officer. Gentlemen, I believe that that distinguished and gallant officer, who had served the Queen with great distinction in the ——— and elsewhere, thoroughly understood his duty, and acted in accordance with it; and that the prisoner had no cause of complaint. But whether he had or had not you

will hear from the learned judge is utterly immaterial to the present issue. It would appear that he brooded over his wrongs, real or supposed, until he conceived the design of gratifying his revenge by shooting the man whom he supposed to have injured him. Indeed, he appears to have endeavoured to persuade himself that he had some sort of right to do this. He appears to have executed this design with the utmost deliberation, waiting for and carefully selecting his time and place, and taking, alas, too sure an aim. I am glad the prisoner has the benefit of the great abilities of my learned friend, who will of course urge any consideration in his favour, if there be any such consideration. At the same time, if the statement I have made is borne out by the witnesses whom I shall call before you, I need scarcely remind you that you have but one duty to perform.

ELECTIONEERING.

Mr. ——— having asked the meeting to give him their kind indulgence, proceeded to say that he desired anxiously, fairly, and openly to express his opinions, and those upon which he desired to act, without fear of consequences which might result from them. It had been remarked by many that he came before them as a Tory—as an "old Tory." He desired to speak with the highest possible respect of that great political party—a party to which this country owed a debt of deep gratitude; but he must confess that he did not belong to that party. He had no title to the appellation. On the other hand, some of his friends and supporters had ventured to call him a milk-and-water fellow, a half-and-half sort of fellow, because he did not go the whole hog, and throw himself into party organisation. He did not stand before them as a party man, but as one who was thoroughly independent, and if he went to Parliament it would be in a perfectly independent position. He held strong, and he hoped clear political opinions, but he did not hold himself bound to owe allegiance to any party leader. Those opinions to which he had referred in his address were those to which he adhered. He had a great reverence for their ancient British constitution. It was one under which he had lived, and under which his ancestors had lived, and there

had been a continued growth of prosperity. He knew no great or serious grievance which existed as the result of it at the present time. Therefore he was opposed to any great change which would imperil the existence of the constitution under which we enjoyed so many and such great blessings. There was a bill before Parliament, called Mr. ———'s Bill, which professed to admit—it was avowedly introduced to admit—within what was called the pale of the constitution, the "working classes." The working classes were those like the meeting and himself. They were most of them working men. He might say of himself that he had been a hard worker during his life, yet he had not been admitted to the franchise as one of a particular class. He had enjoyed the franchise during the past twenty years because he had a home and house and paid taxes, had a stake in the country, and something to lose, and he was glad to exercise the privilege. Now the question was put, was £10 too much rent to pay by a man who had a family, a stake? There were very few, he thought, who, if they chose to incur the responsibilities which attached to the position of a householder, could not obtain it. What was the £6 franchise to do? They were told that it was to admit the upper stratum of the working classes within the constitution. That was the statement of the hon. member for ———, of one who supported it, and of a very great authority, who spoke on its behalf in a former session. What was the upper stratum of the working classes? Would they define it? Did he belong to it or did they? Where would they define it who was in the stratum? If they gave power they must give it to the man who had something to lose—something to imperil by change—undue change—

a wife and family whose interests might be damaged or hurt, and who might be exposed to risk by great, hazardous, and dangerous change. He did not proclaim his unswerving adherence to the £10 franchise; but, so far as he could see, it was necessary that the qualification for the franchise should be something which would give stability and imply all that Englishmen call a home—all that distinguished a man who was a cautious, painstaking man who desired to rise in the world, and who desired also that others should rise, from the man careless and indifferent, and who had nothing in the world himself, and who looked forward to a change as of necessity for the better. What was the position of affairs at this moment? It was singular, and most important. The fact that Parliament had existed for —— years proved that the country had been quiet, prosperous, and contented. There was not an appeal to the country now as to the support of any particular Ministry, but an appeal to the country to return members who should declare whether or not the constitution should practically be changed. Were they (the electors of ————) dissatisfied with contentment and prosperity—and did they wish changes which might possibly be for the better, and might possibly be for the worse? He desired the reform of abuses, and he denied that reform consisted solely in the lowering of the franchise. There were reforms in administration, &c., which were equally essential. If they returned him to Parliament, he would promise anxiously to watch the local affairs of his constituents, and also to attend to those measures of social and domestic reform which were urgently necessary—such as reforms in the street and in the dwellings of the poor. In conclusion, Mr. ——— expressed his readiness to answer any questions.

Mr. ——— said he never came forward with greater pride and pleasure than he did on this occasion, in proposing Mr. ———. It was not necessary for him now to occupy their time in mentioning all the personal claims that Mr. ——— had to their confidence and support. They all knew what Mr. ——— was. The name of ——— was not unknown in the county, and for several months past Mr. ——— had been doing all that one man could do in bringing openly and boldly before the electors himself and his opinions. He was the representative of the true ——— party, who sought to benefit the country and preserve her institutions, not by obstructing change, but by supporting wise and judicious change. He cautioned them against a man who made great profession of Reform and then did nothing afterwards, as had been the custom. There was another and a stronger reason why he supported Mr. ———. He believed, in supporting him, they supported our Protestant religion. If they wished, on the other hand, to support one who would vote for the abolition of the ——— Bill, if they wished to support a Ministry who, step by step, would fritter away all the wise safeguards provided for the Protestant Church, let them not vote for Mr. ———, but vote for the other side. He considered he was performing a very honest duty in calling on all his brother electors to join with him in supporting Mr. ———.

Mr. ——— said he had the honour of seconding the nomination of Mr. ———. He would not detain them more than a few moments, because it was unnecessary to enter into the political opinions of Mr. ———, that gentleman having already so fully expressed his views before the electors of the county, and being shortly about to state them himself. This

was a fair stand-up fight between two great parties in the county; the ——— did not provoke the contest, it had been thrown upon them by their opponents, who, as they had a perfect right to do, had brought forward a candidate for the second seat. The ——— had accepted the challenge, they were determined to fight it to the end, and, what was more, they were determined to win. He would call upon those who were attached to the institutions of the country, those who were opposed to ——— measures, and those who were in favour of the established Protestant Church, to give their support to the ——— candidates. He believed they would both be returned as the representatives of this great constituency.

Mr. ——— proposed Mr. ———, who came before them as one of that party which he believed to be the strictest supporters of our Protestant institutions—the strictest supporters of Church and State, namely, the ——— party. He would, he was sure, support to his utmost that constitution of which Englishmen were so proud, and those institutions which had upheld that constitution. He would advocate retrenchment—retrenchment as far as possible, consistent with the due maintenance of the defences of this country. He would support that most valuable, he might term it, institution of this country, the volunteer force; and another matter would receive Mr. ———'s early attention, if elected, namely, the subject of education. He was of opinion, and no doubt the hon. candidate was of the same opinion, that the agricultural districts, with regard to education, had been very much neglected. The large manufacturing towns had received a very large proportion of the million of money which was every year devoted to extending educa-

tion. In his own district he had the pleasure of supporting more than one school, but they were unable to obtain any assistance, because they could not afford to pay masters who possessed an amount of education far above what was required. Give the agriculturists a sound education—let them study reading, writing, and arithmetic, and then they would become useful, as well as more enlightened members of society.

Mr. ——— seconded the nomination of Mr. ———. In Mr. ——— they presented to them a candidate second to none who had been brought forward throughout the whole of England. He was a man of whom a constituency might be justly proud. Mr. ———, from his cradle and in his early youth, gave promise of qualities of rare excellence, and in his manhood he had fully carried out the promise of his youth. Should they desire to be represented by a man of talents, a man of principle, a man of eloquence, and a man of character, who would proclaim constitutional and ——— principles against ——— and ———, if they desired such a man they would find him in Mr. ———. At times when the constitution was assailed—that constitution which combined the efficiency of a monarchy with the freedom of a republic, without the despotism of one and the licentiousness of the other—if they loved their country and its institutions, under which we had become a great power—he called upon them to maintain the honour of their country by returning the ——— candidates.

The Mayor—In the name of the Queen I declare ——— Esq., duly elected to serve as a burgess in the Commons House of Parliament for the Borough of ———.

Mr. ———, on presenting himself, said—I beg to return my best and most sincere thanks. I cannot accept the magnificent triumph which you achieved yesterday as a tribute of personal respect, or as showing how much you approve of my public conduct, for you have, I know, higher and more noble objects in view. You showed that enthusiasm, you made those extraordinary exertions, you exhibited that excess of zeal, not for the very humble individual who has now the honour of addressing you, but because in me you recognise a very humble but a very earnest supporter of those great principles which we all love in common. I beg to assure you that, justified as I have been by this earnest testimony of your approval, confirmed as I have been in the opinions I have ventured to entertain throughout my life and my parliamentary career, I shall go back to the House of Commons as your representative, there to advocate and support those principles which it is my best wish to encourage and promote in the most uncompromising and unflinching manner. The only ——— paper we can boast of in ——— has done me the honour—and it is a great honour—to say that I did not come before you with any professions of political opinion, and said that I merely said in my address, "Here I am again." I am fully aware of the feelings which actuated that journal in making that remark; albeit it had reference to a comic association of youth, Joe Grimaldi, for that was the remark which he made when he presented himself before his mirth-loving audience. But I take it in a more serious light, for in saying so that paper—unwittingly, no doubt—has paid me the highest compliment, and has done the greatest justice to your sagacity. Yes, here I am again, and I trust that, so long as I pursue the

same course which I do now, and which has secured your confidence, neither of us shall be ashamed to meet each other face to face. In one of the addresses of the many which I have made to you I took occasion to announce that my confident belief was that the result of this election would be a large majority in favour of the ——— party. But now, my friends, I have not only to congratulate you upon the fulfilment of my prediction, but on something else. You have disposed, so far as your borough is concerned, of that cant and delusion about ——— reaction, and I have the great satisfaction of telling you that the ——— element will be increased, and augmented in the next Parliament. When I had the honour to be nominated the day before yesterday, I pointed out to you what I considered my highest claim to a renewal of your suffrages; the fact that I had been honoured with the confidence of the late ———, a name that can never be mentioned but with a feeling of veneration; and as I am now once more entrusted with your confidence I may be permitted to say one thing more of that great and good man; that shortly before he was taken from us he interested himself most strongly and co-operated with me, as far as I could go with delicacy, in promoting the return of ——— for ———. Although I felt, as your sitting member, that a constituency of the independence of ——— might take umbrage had I at once coalesced with ———, at the same time I cannot disguise from myself, or from you, that I rejoice exceedingly at the result which has just been arrived at, for you have returned as my colleague in Parliament a promising gentleman, and also an uncompromising friend of ———.

THE DRAMA.

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I come now to what we sometimes hear called "the toast of the evening"—yes, and the toast of the year; and I may with truth call it the toast of my life. I heartily approve of the idea of this festival. I think the leading events, epochs, and persons of this our earth require their occasional commemoration. Life is stagnant enough—men and women are commonplace enough, to avoid the risk of such disturbances cropping up too frequently. Least of all can the nation which boasts of Shakspeare fear to misplace her homage; and as I think it right that such a celebration should be held, I am not less clear that the right place to hold it in was Stratford-upon-Avon—his own Stratford-upon-Avon—that Stratford-upon-Avon around which all we know of Shakspeare—all except his undying works—is exclusively clustered; here, on about the most central ground of his own fair England, where I cannot but fancy that the whole impress of the scenery and rural life around is so unmistakeably English that we like to be reminded how home-like, and special, and insular was the cradle of that poet by whom we claim the mastery over the universal heart of man,—the password over the earth, and the many worlds beyond it. We are following, too, the good English rule of precedent, which was set for us by the celebration at

Stratford in the last century, mainly under the auspices of him who seems to be universally acknowledged, out of the long line of illustrious players of either sex, dead or living, who have distinguished, and, in some instances, identified themselves with the leading characters of Shakspeare, to have held the foremost place as the interpreter of Shakspeare—David Garrick. But since that well-timed homage of the England of the 18th century to the memory of Shakspeare, with what colossal strides has his fame advanced in the estimation of mankind! In our own country, at the previous period, the public taste still allowed the representation of his plays to be overlaid by the clumsy alterations and tinsel additions of Dryden, of Cibber, and of Garrick himself—*Et tu, Brute!* I need not point out the gratifying contrast which the reverential and affectionate retention and restoration of the original text, and let me add the scrupulous attention to the whole keeping and chronology of the minutest accessories of the representation, supplies in our days. Then abroad, the middle of the last century was the time when fast and fierce flew the arrows against the alleged barbarism of Shakspeare, aimed from the sarcastic armoury of Voltaire, which did not spare higher things than Shakspeare himself. Consult the first living names in the brilliant literature of France, and mark not how altered, but how reversed, the tone is in which Shakspeare is now spoken of and judged. As to Germany, I believe her boast is that she reveres, understands, and fathers him even more thoroughly than ourselves. I believe I may cite Goethe as the most representative name in the varied and teeming range of German literature; how does he designate Shakspeare? as the greatest traveller in the journey of life. Happily any en-

deavour to define or gauge the genius of Shakspeare would be as much beyond my mark as it would be beyond the limits and requirements of a scene like this. I think he would be a very clumsy worshipper at his immortal shrine who would not admit that his merits and beauties, while they are transcendent, are still unequal, and that in the whole range of his 36 admitted plays, in some of these he not only falls below his own level, but that of several of his contemporaries and successors. But take him in his height, and who may approach him? Presumptuous as the endeavour may appear to classify, there would seem to be few great tragedies which occupy summits of their own—*Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Lear*, *Othello;* I feel we may take our stand within that unassailable quadrilateral, and give our challenge to all the world. I feel indeed tempted to upbraid myself when I think of all the outlying realms of strength and comeliness which I thus seem to leave outside; the stately forms of Roman heroes, the chivalry marshalled around our Plantaganet Kings, the wit of Mercutio, Beatrice, and Falstaff, the maiden grace of Imogen and Miranda, Ariel the dainty sprite, Oberon and his elfin Court, the memories of which people the glades of the Ardennes, the Rialto of Venice, the garden of Verona, giving to each glorious scene and sunny shore a stronger lien upon our associations than is possessed even by their own native land. It is time that I should call upon you, in the right of all the recollections which must throng in your own breasts far more copiously and vividly than I could hope to present them to you—by the thrill you have felt in the crowded theatre, amid all the splendour of dramatic pageantry—by the calmer enjoyment of your closest leisure—by the rising of your soul when the lines

which breathe and warm have led you to recognize and adore the Giver of such gifts to men, to join me in drinking, not with the solemn silence which a more recent death might have enjoined, but with the reverential love and the admiring fervour due to the day and the man—"The Memory of Shakspeare!"

The Chairman, in giving the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Dramatic Sick Fund," said that as there were many there who were little if at all acquainted with the nature of the institution which they had met to support, it was his duty to endeavour to explain its necessities and its usefulness. If those who ministered to the intellectual gratification of the public were exempted from "the ills which flesh is heir to," there would be no necessity for such an institution; but, strange to say, those who attracted by their talents and charmed by their grace, holding all spell-bound by their marvellous power of representing the great passions of our nature, and the subtle emotions of the soul, were human like the rest of the world; and, if there was any difference between them and mankind in general, it was to be found in the more arduous nature of their profession, in the greater vicissitudes of their fortune, and in the startling contrast between the glitter and splendour of the stage and the stern realities of actual life. Pointing out in eloquent language the physical and intellectual advantages necessary to attain pre-eminence in the Thespian art, the hon. gentleman showed what vicissitudes there were in the life even of a distinguished actor or actress, and the sad position to which a decadence of their powers might ultimately bring them. He next dwelt on the general and particular causes which affected the success of poor players, showed the contrast between their stage existence, even when

employed, and the stern realities of life, and pointed out the necessity of such an institution as they had met to celebrate, to soften the sudden calamities to which they were liable. The objects of the institution he described to be to relieve cases of sudden sickness, to minister to poverty and to want, to provide situations, and to enable those who had obtained situations in distant towns to reach the scene of their duties. Though it afforded temporary relief to non-members, the association was really in the nature of a benefit society. The chairman next referred to the unalloyed happiness for which in after life all were indebted to the stage. These being some of the claims which the stage, socially considered, had on their gratitude, was he exaggerating or saying more than the bare truth when he described the player in relation to his art as one of the public benefactors of his time? Such were some of the claims of the actor on the friendly remembrance of the public while he occupied the public eye. But what was his position when the public eye had lost sight of him? Had his life then no claim on the general sympathy? Let them take the case of one who, after a long struggle against advancing infirmity, was at last stricken down. The doctor's fiat had gone forth—the man must leave his profession if he would preserve his health. To-morrow, then, the curtain which rose on others would not rise on him; the cheerful faces of the audience, the actor's second sunshine, would meet his gaze no more. Poverty, sickness, seclusion, and oblivion fenced his prospect round on every side. Could no ray of hope penetrate that darkness from the public whom he had faithfully served? No; the public inevitably forgot him. Public attention could only notice the new man who filled his vacant

place. Was there no helping hand held out to him in his serious need? Yes, the best helping hands were held out, the hands of his brethren in art. They thought of the possibility of the day of adversity, and said to him, "While you are earning a salary give what you can spare to a fund which we will administer—a fund which shall be open to every man or woman who subscribes, no matter what their rank in their profession, or whether their theatre is great or small. If the means of administering that fund fail through the exceptionally generous administration of it, not on you who are poor and weary shall the burden fall of appealing to the public, if appeal we must, but upon us. We are prosperous and celebrated; take our prosperity and celebrity into your service. If others forget, let it be for us to remember, that, great or small, we are all bound together in the great brotherhood of art." Such motives the men had felt who founded this fund, and such motives were still felt by those who served the fund. Such an institution required no advocacy. It required only to be known that the actor's brethren had done this for the actor before coming to the public outside. On these grounds he confidently rested the claims on their grateful and sympathising benevolence.

RAILWAYS.

The CHAIRMAN said the report was short and satisfactory. The amount available for dividend was ———. Some shareholders had complained to him that, notwithstanding this large sum, the dividend was not more than — per cent.; but he could not say he concurred with them in thinking they had a right to expect more. From the report of the directors for the corresponding half-year ——— it would be seen that the balance of profit from the sale of new shares, which was then ———, was now ———, or only —— more. They were, however, able to pay the same dividend, and to carry forward a balance of ——. From a table showing the progress they had made, he found that in the first year ——— they had a balance of ——— In the corresponding year ——— they had ———, and in the December half-year they had ———. In the half-year ending June ——, they ———. This was all earned on the same mileage, for since their opening ——— to the present day they had not had a single mile of new line to work upon. He would not state the number of passengers they had conveyed; but there was one other statement in the report which showed the fecundity of the ——— Railway in so marked a manner that he would draw attention to it. In ——— last the fares between intermediate stations were reduced, and the result was that, while in the half-year ending ———, there were ——— passengers, they

carried in the corresponding half-year, ——— no less than ——— passengers, being an increase of ———. The amount or reduction was from ———, and the result had been that, while they had nearly trebled the number of passengers they had increased the receipts. This was a fact that must carry conviction to the minds of every one who looked to it, and he could not help thinking that the fares might be still further reduced with advantage to the proprietors. He was perfectly certain they would largely increase their income if they reduced the fares, and if they could see their way to maintaining the dividend and giving increased facility to the public they would be glad to do so. The table went to show they could do so. The number of passengers carried by trains, the receipts per train, and the receipts per passenger, were almost the same in the past year as in the previous year. In the past year they carried —— passengers per train, and in the previous ——. The receipts per train in the last year were ———; in the previous year ———. Their working expenses, which were —— per cent. this, were —— per cent. in the previous year. That included rates and taxes and the duty on passengers. He had been asked by a shareholder why they did not lay aside a reserve fund to provide against accident. He did not know whether they were aware that the line was worked on such a system that there could never be an accident from collision. A train was never permitted to leave a station until the signal was given that the line was clear at the next station; and as all trains stopped at all stations, a collision could never occur. They were now relaying the permanent way, and they were doing their best to keep the road in good order. He had been asked

what was the capacity for carrying. The general manager said he would undertake to run with safety trains every ——— minutes during the whole day, because by his system of telegraphing a train would never be permitted to leave until the line was clear to the next station. They had an immediate telegraph between ——— and ———, and a train might be cleared every —— minutes. Therefore they might increase their trains without danger. During the first year past, the number of trains weekly was ———. No gentleman need apprehend, therefore, that the ——— Railway was not equal to the exigencies of the ——— traffic. They had for some time been preparing to meet the traffic of the ——— Railway, and had been making a junction with that line in ———. They were delayed by litigation. They had communication with the ———, but they had resolved not to open until the ——— Station, where the traffic would be worked, was finished. Possibly in ——— they would have trains running from ——— to ———, and he could not doubt that the interchange of traffic would be productive to the shareholders of both companies. It was the intention of this company to work in harmony and good fellowship with all their neighbours. They had made arrangements to complete the works on their extensions not going beyond ———, and he might say incidentally that they had received an intimation from the ——— company that they were prepared to execute their work, to give a line to run between ——— and ———. For ——— years to come there would be no charge on the ——— for these extensions, and after that period they had reason to believe the revenue of these lines would be sufficient for the payment of a fair rate of interest on the amount paid for their construction.

WEDDINGS.

Toast.—"HEALTH AND PROSPERITY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE MR. AND MRS. ———."

Speech.—BY THE FATHER.

LADIES and GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS and NEIGHBOURS, —I arise on this happy occasion—this festive—domestic and matrimonial occasion I may say, to propose to you a toast, and one in which I feel sure you will all join heart and hand with me in drinking and doing honor to ———; its a happy toast—and this is a happy occasion. And I may say ladies and gentlemen, and with truth, that I feel this is one of the happiest days of my life. I've been doing a little bit of charity, and you all know that it is written that "charity shall cover a multitude of sins." Ladies and Gentlemen I have been giving away something—a gem—a gem of the first water. I have this day given a young man a good, virtuous, handsome, lovable English maiden for a wife. A greater prize in life's lottery one man cannot present to another. And may they, the newly married couple, be happy, is the fervent wish of the elderly gentleman now addressing you. I love a wedding, and during the now somewhat lengthened progress of this pilgrim; and I've had my fair share of bunions, I can tell you—Ah! you may laugh—of course you may—everybody may and ought to laugh on a

wedding day. But as I just observed, I love a wedding, and I have been to many, and hope to go to many more. I see lots of nice young couples here around me. Now make up your minds to get married. "Pop the question"—out with it! and if any of you are in want of a father—I'm your man! Young ladies, look at me, scan me well, then I will ask in the words of the immortal Samuel Pickwick "how should you like to have another Father?" I am in the market, and very much at the service of any young lady or gentleman bound for the church. Now while the young couples are making up their minds to name "the day, the happy, happy day," and considering where they shall buy the ring, I will give you the toast that I arose for the purpose of proposing, for 'tis

"The toast—the toast—the toast's the thing
To make your hands tingle, and the glasses ring."

Now my kind friends you will all join with me in drinking "health long life and happiness" to Mr. and Mrs. ———, the newly married couple, and may their path through life be strewed with roses—and posies—may they have joys and boys, to their hearts' content. The health of Mr. and Mrs. ———, and may they have

"Quiet days, fair issue, and long life."—*Shakespeare.*

Toast and *Speech.*—By the Father.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—You are sufficiently aware of the circumstance that has brought us together today; an event has taken place in the family of my old respected and much esteemed friends Mr. and Mrs. ———. Their son, Mr. Charles ——— has taken unto himself a wife in the person of Miss

———, with whom most of you here are well acquainted. Ladies and gentlemen, I feel proud of being here on this occasion, inasmuch as it gives me an opportunity of speaking of the merits and many virtues I happen to know from a long acquaintanship with his family, that Mr. Charles ——— possesses. He is, I feel proud to inform you who are not already acquainted with the fact, a very exemplary young man, well worthy of the esteem and confidence in which he is held. And I hope and trust that that happiness he so well deserves will follow this—his wedding day—may he and his be happy—enjoy long each other's society—love and esteem—may every blessing that this life affords be showered upon them, may their onward career be blessed with joy and happiness. The parents of the young and happy bride lose much I know, in being deprived of the society and solace of so inestimable a daughter as Miss—I beg the lady's pardon, Mrs. ———. But they will I feel assured be well recompensed, knowing that their child—their only daughter—has made such a happy choice; she has said that

"A cottage with the man she loved
Was what her gentle heart approved."

And who can blame her? No one I'm sure. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I will conclude by proposing to you "long life and happiness" to Mr. and Mrs. ———.

"Love is the salt of life; a higher taste
It gives to pleasure, and makes it last."

Toast and Speech by the Father, and friend of the Bride's Family.

LADIES and GENTLEMEN,—It is customary on all occasions like the present to propose the health and

happiness of the newly married couple. And I feel that I cannot refrain from using the old and hacknied phrase of "I wish that the task had fallen into abler hands than those of the very humble individual now addressing you." But ladies and gentlemen I feel that what I may want in words, you will at all events give me credit for sincerity, for I can assure you all that I very much respect the family of Mr. and Mrs. ———, who are amongst the oldest of my acquaintances in this neighbourhood. I have long enjoyed their friendship and esteem, and have seen and watched their lovely daughter pass through the various stages of life, from infancy—school-girlism and to the time of her blooming and blushing womanhood—she has been the belle of our village. But our young friend—and "none but the brave deserve the fair,"—has this day carried her off from us—He came! He saw! He conquered! And you will all agree that he has a prize worth the winning, for

> "Old as I am—for ladies love unfit,
> The power of beauty I remember yet."

Ladies and gentlemen, we shall for some time at least lose the happy smiling face of our merry and cheerful belle of our village. Mr. ——— is the happy man who is to take her from us; may she be as happy as she deserves. May she find a true and devout partner in the person of our friend Mr. ——— and may he find in her all that can be desired in this our life—an amiable and loving wife, and I feel convinced that it will be an alliance of joy and happiness. May they live long to enjoy each other's society. I wish the young couple joy, and I hope that this marriage will be the means of cementing the families of the parents on each side, in a long and lasting

friendship, which will only be determined when they, in the common course of nature, shall "have shuffled off this mortal coil." My friends, I now ask you to join with me in drinking long life, joy, and happiness, to the newly married couple—the hero and heroine of the day, Mr. and Mrs. ———.

Speech for the Bridegroom in returning thanks to his Friends and Neighbours, to conclude with a Toast proposing the Health of the Father and Chairman of the day.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—In venturing to return thanks for the very kind and handsome manner in which you have all been pleased to drink and respond to the toast of "health, long life, and happiness to the newly married couple," and which has been proposed to you by my very excellent and esteemed friend Mr. ———, you will I am sure bear with me, and pardon any short-comings arising from the new and peculiar position I find myself placed in at the present moment. I feel overwhelmed by your kindness—I am at a loss to find words to express myself—or my feelings—your kindness on this occasion I shall never forget—it will be engraven on my heart for the remainder of my days—I thank you—I thank you sincerely for your good and kind wishes for my health and happiness and that of my wife.

"What is there in the vale of life
Half so delightful as a wife,
When friendship, love, and peace combine
To stamp the marriage-bond divine?"

Ladies and gentlemen, you will, I feel, pardon me for my lack of oratorical power on this day—many that I now see around me have passed the ordeal—they have had to return thanks on their

[illegible]y—and can, knowing the embarrassment [illegible] a time, excuse me—what I lack in words [illegible] I feel assured pardon and excuse—you [illegible]e will for the deed. I will conclude by [illegible] thanking you all most heartily—most [illegible] the cordial manner in which you Mr. [illegible]ave proposed our healths, and you my [illegible]ds have responded to the call of my very [illegible]eemed friend Mr. ———.

[illegible]ugh fools spurn Hymen's gentle pow'rs,
[illegible] who improve his gentle hours,
By sweet experience know,
[illegible] marriage rightly understood,
[illegible]s to the tender and the good,
A Paradise below."

[illegible]nd gentlemen, I will now conclude by pro-[illegible]oast for your kind consideration—one I [illegible]u will do justice to. In marshalling large [illegible]s well known how important it is to have a [illegible]ral. And in the conducting of a mercan-[illegible]ess you all know how necessary it is to [illegible]ood head to the firm, to order and direct; [illegible]ll know how necessary it is in carrying out [illegible]al and social gathering of friends and neigh-[illegible]e the present, to have a good and efficient [illegible]n. That we have this day found one possessing [illegible]qualities suitable for the event in the person [illegible] old and esteemed friend Mr. ———, the [illegible]an and the matrimonial father of the day, I [illegible] you will all agree with me; therefore, friends [illegible]eighbours, I now ask of you that you will join [illegible] me [illegible]king "health and happiness" to our [illegible]hy [illegible] the day, Mr. ———, "good health [illegible]th [illegible] happiness."

Response of the Father and Chairman of the Day.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In rising to acknowledge the compliment you have paid me in drinking my health. I can assure you that I feel highly honoured by the manner in which it has been proposed to you by my friend Mr. ———; also, for the way in which it has been received and responded to by you all. I can assure you that I feel very proud that my conduct on this day has so far merited your esteem. I do, as I before observed, really feel that this is one of the happiest days of my life;—to win the love and respect of such a numerous and gay a party as here assembled is no mean honour. The happy pair will, in a few hours, depart from us—they go on their wedding tour to spend the honeymoon. May they be happy—as I am sure they will, for

> "They whom truth and wisdom lead
> Can gather honey from a weed."

I have to thank you all sincerely for your kindness in proposing my health. I shall at all times feel proud and happy to be with and amongst you all; and I have no doubt that we shall be all called together again to celebrate an interesting event that, in the common course of nature, so shortly follows a wedding—to welcome the little stranger will, I hope, be our next merry meeting.

Toast.—"THE BRIDESMAIDS."

By a Friend of the Family.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Before this happy meeting breaks up, I have been desired to propose a toast. You have all done honour, and justly so,

to the "newly married couple," by proposing and drinking their health and prosperity. But there is another portion of "wedding characters" which must not be overlooked. I mean the bridesmaids; they form a very interesting and necessary part of a wedding, and I am sure you will all agree with me that we have this day had a set of perfect beauties.

> "'Tis not a lip, or eye, we beauty call,
> But the joint force and full result of all."

I think I never saw such an array of beauty and loveliness in one day before.

> "Loveliness needs not the foreign aid of ornament,
> But is, when unadorn'd, adorn'd the most."

To attend as a bridesmaid is held to be a stepping-stone to marriage. I hope that many of the young ladies here present to-day will prove such to be the case. The wedding breakfast-room may be said to be a good field for husbands—a matrimonial field, I may say, therefore, young ladies, look around you; and I will say, in the words of a master of the ceremonies of a ball-room, "Take your partners and places—join hands!" For, as a walled town is more worthier than a village, so is the forehead of a married man more honourable than the bare brow of a bachelor. To the bridesmaids of to-day I would say, and on behalf of this company, I thank you for your presence, and I will conclude by proposing "The Bridesmaids;" and may they all become brides on or before this day twelve months.

A Speech in acknowledging the Toast of "The Bridesmaids."—By the Spinster Aunt.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN, AND LADIES,—I am desired to rise and acknowledge the toast of

"The Bridesmaids." I am sure we have to thank Mr. ——— for the kind way in which he has spoken of us, and to the company for the handsome manner in which you have responded to the toast. Mr. ——— has spoken of a wedding breakfast room being a fine "matrimonial field." I wish he would prove his words; for I am sure I have been to several weddings during my seventeen summers, more or less, for of course I claim a lady's privilege in respect to my age.

> "O, sir! I must not tell my age,
> They say woman and music should never be dated."

But if the wedding breakfast-room is that fine "matrimonial field," I am somewhat surprised to find that Mr. ——— has not yet "brought down his bird." I am afraid he is not a good shot. It's all very well for him to say, "Look around you—take your partners and your places—join hands." But why has he not taken his partner and his proper place in society—why has he not "joined hands" with one of the "perfect beauties" he talks so much about. I am afraid that he is "a perfect cure;" or he would have before this have proved to one of the many bridesmaids that he has met with of late, that to act as a bridesmaid was a stepping-stone to marriage. I am sure I have met him at nine weddings during the last nine months, and he has never proposed to me or "any other lady." I am afraid he is a little gay deceiver—one of the men that "won't propose." I am sure that if Mr. ——— has any objection to propose to me, he can have no excuse with regard to my nieces; for a

> "Lady with her daughters or her nieces,
> Shine like a guinea and seven-shilling pieces."

Now, I give Mr. ——— notice that if he does not propose to some fair lady before the next moon—or wedding-day—that I will never believe him again—never! never!! never!!! But, on behalf of the bridesmaids, of which I have the honour of being one, I have to return you our thanks for the kind manner in which you have proposed our healths, and for your good and kind wishes. But

"Ah me! when shall I marry me?
Lovers are plenty, but fail to relieve me."

A Speech in acknowledging the Toast of "The Bridesmaids."—By a Young Lady.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, and Ladies,—I am informed that it is usual and necessary that some one of the bridesmaids should acknowledge and return thanks for the toast which you have proposed and drank with so much kindness and enthusiasm. I am sure that I am at a loss to find words to express myself on this occasion. You have spoken of us in such a manner that I feel I lack words to convey the wishes of my sister bridesmaids to you. Mr. ——— has spoken of us in such flattering terms, and I can't think we deserve them all. I am sure we are all pleased to attend the wedding of a friend and school-fellow, Miss ——— with Mr. ———, and I can only say that which you have all said before, may they be happy. Oh, dear! this is the first wedding I have attended. I cannot say any more; I wish you all to be happy, Miss ———, now Mrs. ———, I hope she will be happy. I hope we shall all be happy. A wedding day is a happy day. I thank you, gentlemen and ladies, for your kindness in proposing "The Brides-

maids." Please to excuse me if I have not acquitted myself so well as was expected from me. But I am sure I wish you all happiness, and with regard to the newly-married couple I would say, "I think you the happiest couple in the world; for you're not only happy in one another, but happy in yourselves, and by yourselves."

> "But happy they, the happiest of their kind,
> Whom gentle stars unite, and in one fate
> Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend!"

Toast.—By the Chairman.—"The Bridesmen."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—There is another section of the *dramatis personæ* of the play of "How to get married," that must not be overlooked on this occasion. I allude to the bridesmen—they have their part to play; they form a portion of the characters necessary to develope they play of "Man and Wife" and "The Wedding Day." And as it very often happens that we are much indebted to those gentlemen who act as bridesmen for the charmingly pretty bridesmaids that we always see at an English wedding. They pick for beauty in the whole of the surrounding neighbourhood. In fact they—if I may be allowed the expression—scour the country for "pretty girls." Ah! and they get 'em too. Then they write little three cornered notes on such nice scented paper, to all their pretty cousins and fair friends, to play the part of bridesmaid "for this occasion only," as the theatrical managers have it. The pretty cousins and fair friends are informed in those three-cornered notes aforesaid, that "there will be such lots of nice young men there." Then can you wonder that we always see

so much beauty at a wedding? This occasion proves no exception to that rule, for I am sure we have an abundance of beauty assembled here to day, and all owing to those artful young gentlemen and three-cornered notes. Well, what matter the means, so long as the end is obtained. Now I think that we have all to be very thankful to the bridemen, and cannot therefore refuse to drink their health

"In a bumper—in a bumper of bold sparkling wine."

I trust that, with at least some of the bridemen of the day, it will be their last appearance in that character; that when next they appear before the public it will be in the principal part—the bridegroom—I am sure they may as well pop the question to day. Gentlemen, look at the beauty around you—look at the young ladies, who like yourselves have had to play but a second-rate part of a bridesmaid, when they are all ready and willing to take the leading character—they are well studied in the part, and are ready to appear at a moment's notice. Then gentlemen why defer till to-morrow that which can be done to-day? Now gentlemen pop the question, and I'll eat my—my—my—supper to night if there is one lady present who will say NO! No! they will say YES, wont you, my little dears? Now while you are making up your minds I will propose the toast of the bridesmen—and with musical honours too,

"For they are jolly good fellows,
For they are jolly good fellows,
For they are jolly good fellows,
And so say all of us,
And so say all of us,
And so say all of us,
For they are jolly good fellows."

Speech of one of the Bridemen in Returning Thanks.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise for the purpose of acknowledging the toast of the bridemen, and am very happy to find that we are held to be of sufficient consequence at a wedding party as to have our healths proposed. Your excellent Chairman has spoken of us in such glowing terms, that I, unaccustomed as I am to speaking, feel that it behoves me to say a few words on the occasion. I feel proud and happy to be one of the guests at this, I trust, happy wedding. I am sure the manner in which everything has been conducted—thanks to your Chairman—is enough to inspire every one present to seriously think of matrimony; when we see such a happy gathering of smiling faces it makes one feel inclined to "pop the question"—become a Benedict; and I have no doubt that it will have that effect. All I can say at present is, that I hope, "when my time comes," that I may be blessed with such an efficient and excellent Chairman, or "Father," as we have had to-day—together with such an assemblage of youth and beauty. I will conclude by thanking you all for the kind manner in which you have mentioned "The Bridemen."

A Speech in Reply by one of the Bridemen.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I feel that a response should be made to the toast of "The Bridemen," which has been submitted to you in such a humourous manner by our worthy and esteemed Chairman—or friend, Mr. ———, and acknowledged by you all. I am sure I had no idea

nat a brideman was half such a responsible, and, t the same time, dangerous a person as he has been epicted. As one of the bridemen, I must certainly lead guilty to sending a few notes—although not three-cornered ones;" mine were all oblongs, and overed with Cupid's hearts and darts, and all that ort of thing; and I thought they looked very retty. The young lady who superintends the 'wedding stationery" department of the establishment where I made my purchases, assured me that hey were all the fashion. "For," said she, "Three-orner'd are out—oblongs are in." Then, said I, will be in the fashion; so let me have the oblongs y all means. And I now further plead guilty to aving sent out and used the whole of my packet; nd I know that my pretty cousins did invite by eans of my "oblongs" several pretty, young—I as going to say—pretty young ladies. But, Mr. hairman, I am bound to say that it was just the everse of that, sir, for I happen to catch sight, f course, by the nearest chance in the world, of he superscription, and I perceived they were nearly ll addressed to "young gents," many of whom will e about twenty-one "next grass." Now, friends, he Chairman has admitted that we have an assem-lage of beauty that will defy competition; and I ake to myself and my "oblongs" some share of he credit of their being present; and as it has leased you, it must, as a matter of course, please ne. For your kindness in proposing our good ealths, and on behalf of the other bridemen and nyself, I return our most sincere thanks.

May love and reason be friends, and beauty and prudence marry.

May those who take "the way to get married" find "a cure for the heart-ache."

Anniversary of a Wedding Day.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I need not tell you the object of our meeting here to-day, as you all know this is the anniversary of the wedding-day of our friend Mr. ———; and as he has honoured us by invitations to partake of his hospitality on this festive occasion, we must also be partakers of his joy. Known so long and so intimately as both Mr. ——— and Mrs. ——— have been by the majority of us in general, and by myself in particular, I have dared to assume the task of speaker, not that I fancy I can speak, or that there are none here could do it better, but simply as a right I claim from the many years of uninterrupted friendship that has existed between us. Time, my friends, has trod but lightly on the honoured brows of Mr. and Mrs. ———, and, looking at the charming olive branches that surround them, we read at once that their union has indeed been a happy one—a union exciting the envy of all crude old bachelors and frumpish old maids. Ladies, you will excuse me, I know, for this observation, for I don't believe there is an old maid in existence who did not become so through the bad taste and selfishness of the gentlemen—so then, as the fault lies with the gentlemen, the blame must lie there also. I caution you ladies (that is the unmarried) to see into this matter for your own sakes, as well as out of charity to those chicken-hearted gentlemen who cannot screw their courage to the sticking point and "pop the question." Goodness me, why more than half the pleasures of life are drawn from domestic bliss; and who is it likes the cheerful innocent prattle of

children like the parents? Oh! let us set an example, and if needs be, let us at once establish a society. I can see many present that will take shares, and form a directory—'twill be a good investment; we'll call it the "Non-Bachelor-and-Anti-Old-Maidistic Society, Unlimited." Now, enter your names at once, and drop your capital. Or, stay! first let us drink a bumper in honour of Mr. and Mrs. ——— and all their little ones, wishing them many more years of uninterrupted bliss and prosperity, and then we'll ask them to become Chairman of the Non-Bachelor-and-Anti-Old-Maidistic Society (Unlimited).

Response by the person whose health has been proposed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I feel that it will be expected that I should say a few words on this, the ——th anniversary of our wedding-day, and I can but say that I am pleased to see so many of my friends around me whom I highly esteem, and whose friendship I value, and for whose good wishes, which they have expressed by drinking the health of myself and of my beloved partner in life, I beg to tender my sincerest thanks. Married life is said by some to be productive of cares and troubles which are not incident to a state of what is called "single blessedness;" but, for my own part, I can say that whatever cares, and they have happily been but few, which have attended my own married life, they have been so softened and modified by the soothing influence of connubial sympathy, as to have become unworthy of thought or notice. On the part, therefore, of Mrs. ——— and myself, I again thank you heartily.

CHRISTENING.

Speech by the "Father" and Chairman.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—On rising to say a few words, I may say in the words of the clown, "Here we are again," for when last I had the pleasure of meeting most of the happy faces I now see around me, I hinted that the time was not far distant when we should be assembled again. And I was about to tell you in how many months that I thought we should be called together; but my wife, who was at my elbow, whispered that I was not to go into dates, as it would make the young people blush, she said. But, ladies and gentlemen, we now know the time —its *thrice*, and *thrice*, and *thrice*. That makes nine, and two more makes up eleven, and "Here we are again." Ladies and gentlemen, the journey from the wedding to the christening is short and pleasant—it is pleasant in that it brings us here to celebrate the event—it is pleasant in that we see our worthy hostess, Mrs. ——— about amongst us again, and we all understand the pleasure it is to our respected friend, Mr. ——— to be called a father, and father to such a charming delightful baby, such a perfect duck of a baby—one who never cries. Ladies and gentlemen, take my word for it (and I've had some experience in these matters) Mrs. ————'s baby is, without exception, the handsomest, the sweetest baby I ever saw in my life, and so like its papa, especially about the nose. Young ladies, look at it

—take it as a pattern, for it is a model baby, one that would be sure to get the first prize in any baby-show in the county. I will now conclude these remarks in proposing to you the health and happiness of Mr. and Mrs. ——— with one cheer more for the "little one," and may he make a better man than his father; may he prove and deserve to be his mother's pet and his father's joy. May Mr. and Mrs. ——— be, in a few years, able to say with the poet—

"When I look on my boys
They renew all my joys,
Myself in my children I see,
While the comforts I find
In the kingdom, my mind
Pronounce that my kingdom is free."

Speech by the Parent in returning Thanks.

Mr. Chairman,—Ladies and Gentlemen,—Mr. ——— our excellent friend has been pleased to propose, and you have done us the honour of drinking the health of myself and wife with "one cheer more for the little one." Upon my word and honour I know not how to thank you for your kindness. Mr. ———, your chairman, has said that the journey from the wedding to the christening is but short. And so it has proved, for it is within twelve months since the time when I had the pleasure and happiness of meeting most of you at our wedding-day. And here I find you all again assembled to welcome the "little stranger." I thank you all for your good and kind wishes towards us and "ours"—our number one, and trust that he will prove to grow up to A 1—I sincerely thank you; and I am sure I may speak for Mrs. ——— and thank you all on her behalf for your good wishes.

BIRTHDAY.

In proposing many happy returns of the day—by a friend.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is well known to all present that we have met for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the birthday of our friend Mr. ———, and I have been called upon to say a few words on the occasion. Shall I say I could but wish it fallen to the lot of some one more able than myself? No! I will not, because that's an old tale, and one that nobody ever believes; so being requested to say a few words, I will at once proceed, for I like a birthday, and I am always

"Pleased to look forward, pleased to look behind,
And count each birthday with a grateful mind."

And it is a source of great pleasure for me to be present on the anniversary of our friend's natal day. It is not the first time, and I trust it will not be the last time, that I shall have the honour of being at the celebrating of the event. And I see many happy smiling faces around me that have been in the habit of meeting here before. Our worthy friend is so well known to you all, that little is left for me to say on his behalf; I wish, in all sincerity that he may have many, very many happy returns of the day, and I know that you all participate in that wish. I

know that you all have the greatest possible respect for his welfare; and when I see, year after year, the old familiar faces assembled for the purpose of congratulating him, I feel convinced that you still continue to hold him as your friend. It is, perhaps, one of the pleasantest things in this life to meet one another's friends and acquaintances so often at the same board, as it shows that there is a great respect and friendship on each side; I am sure that we have had a pleasant evening, and one that will bear the morning's reflection. May our friend Mr. ——— continue in the enjoyment of good health, together with his wife and family, for many years to come; and, in conclusion, you will please to join me, bumper in hand, in wishing him "many happy returns of the day," and

"Happy are we met,
Happy have we been,
Happy may we part,
And happy meet again."

Response by the person whose health and "Many happy returns of the day" has been proposed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I feel myself, by your kindness, placed in a peculiar and perplexing predicament. You have drunk to my health, and "many happy returns of the day"—that is, my birthday, but

"'Tis, alas! too clear,
'Tis but the funeral of another year;"

but as each succeeding year rolls round I seem happier in the enjoyment of my friends and acquaintance. Believe me I am pleased to see you all again, although, since we were last assembled, another year has been added to my account in life's ledger.

For your kindness in proposing my health, and for your good wishes, I sincerely thank you all, and am happy to see around me so many of my old friends, some of whom I have known from earliest childhood, and am therefore proud that I have continued to have their respect and friendship for so lengthened a period. I can assure you all, that I feel that I have not words adequate to express my feelings on this occasion; but I know you will excuse me, and take the will for the deed. I thank you all—I can say no more—my words fail me.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—For the honour you have done me, in proposing and drinking my health, I return you my best thanks. I am quite unprepared to make a speech for the occasion, not being accustomed to it; but, nevertheless, I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without rising to thank you all for your kindness; and, believe me, I feel that this is the happiest moment of my life—to be surrounded by my friends, both old and new. It is gratifying, at all times, to meet at the social board with the friends we esteem and love, and in whom we feel a confidence that their expressions of kindly feeling and friendship are sincere; but on such an occasion as this, which, as one of the "milestones of life," marks our progress through this world, it is doubly pleasing to meet with those by whose sympathy and friendship we are enabled to pass pleasantly through what might otherwise be a dull and dreary road. And now, in conclusion, I wish you all health and happiness, and once more thank you for your kindness, which I fear I cannot sufficiently do; for

"Beggar that I am! I am even poor in thanks!
But I thank you."

CONVIVIAL.

Toast.—"The Founders of the Feast."—By a Friend of the Family.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Before we break up this pleasant party, I have a desire to say a few words. We have all been entertained in the most liberal manner by our respected friends, Mr. and Mrs. ———, "The Founders of the Feast." I therefore think we should be wanting in our duty, did we not acknowledge to them our thankfulness for the kindness displayed on their part to us this evening. I am sure it will meet with the approbation of the company, when I inform you that I rise to propose their good health. The many virtues and good qualities possessed by our friends, Mr. and Mrs. ———, I feel convinced are well known to you all; I am, therefore, saved the trouble of debating upon them. Mr. and Mrs. ——— have only to be known to be respected and appreciated. The splendid entertainment provided for us this evening is but one of the many good and kind things they are in the habit of doing, and it may be fairly said of Mr. ———, who is as good a specimen of the "Fine Old Englishman" as you will find in a day's march, that while he feasted with the great, he ne'er forgot the small. His poorer and less fortunate neighbours can testify to his goodness of heart, and

many of the families have had their domestic circle gladdened by his kindness and unostentatious charity. It may be truly said that he is one of those who "do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame." I have had the honour of being long acquainted with our "mutual friend." We have enjoyed each other's society for many years past, and through the whole course of my life I never met with a more "happy family" than his; and I may mention that Mrs. and the Misses ——— are much respected by the whole district. These pleasant gatherings, like the one of this evening, are always spoken of with pleasure; and, whether as the "Founder of the Feast," or visitors to similar entertainments, they are always looked upon with pleasure and delight. That Mr. and Mrs. ——— may long live to enjoy the respect and good wishes of their friends—that the remaining portion of their journey through this life may be pleasant and comfortable, I am sure is the wish of all present. That their sons and daughters may grow up and walk in the footsteps of their parents, we all desire to see. With respect to this evening's entertainment, they all deserve our warmest thanks. It has been "the feast of reason and the flow of soul,"—a gathering of convivial spirits—a meeting of friends and neighbours; and I would say, Here's to our next merry meeting! and conclude by proposing the health of Mr. and Mrs. ———, "The Founders of the Feast."

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Mr. and Mrs. ———, our worthy and respected host and hostess, are much beloved by all who have the happiness of being acquainted with them. The whole of the surrounding district is full of praise (and well it may be) of the many excellences possessed by

them. They have a very large circle of friends, by whom they are held in great esteem. Of Mr. ——— it might fairly be said of him that he is—

"so good, so just, so great,
That at his birth the heavenly council paus'd,
And then at last cry'd out, 'This is a man!'"
—DRYDEN.

Therefore—

To the health I'm now proposing,
Let's have one full glass at least,
No one can think 't imposing,
'Tis "THE FOUNDERS OF THE FEAST."

Response by the Host in acknowledging the Toast of "The Founders of the Feast."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.—In rising to acknowledge your kindness in drinking our healths, which was proposed to you by my worthy and old esteemed friend, Mr. ———, I feel that I want words to express myself in proper terms. I can say that I am much obliged to you all for the flattering manner in which you have responded to the toast: I can assure you that we have no greater pleasure in this life than that of meeting our friends and neighbours. I am convinced that these little gatherings go a long way in cementing friendship; I know of no better way of rightly understanding each other than such entertainments as we have had to-night. We—that is, my wife and self—are well repaid if we have afforded you any pleasure and conviviality. Mrs. ——— and our daughters seem never happier than when they are making preparations for a little party. We are at all times pleased to see our friends. I can but acknowledge

that I am flattered by the manner in which you have drunk our good healths. To my old friend, Mr. ———, I have to be thankful for the kind way in which he put the toast to you, and for the kind things he said of me and mine. We have known each other for many, many years—more than we in the common course of nature can expect to do again. I have found him a good and true friend. I have to be thankful to him for many past favours and counsels, which I have ever found to be wise and good. To you, my friends, I return my sincere thanks for the kind and handsome manner in which you have proposed my health and that of Mrs. ———, and in return I do not know that I can do better than propose the health of Mr. ———. I have before observed that he is an old friend of mine, and he is so well known and respected by you all that it leaves me but little to say on his behalf, and if I were to speak for an hour I could not inform you of more than you already know of him; therefore, without any further remarks, I will conclude with proposing "Health, long life, and happiness to Mr. ———."

Health of a Meritorious Individual.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—Taking an opportunity afforded now before you recommence the harmony of the evening, I trust you will grant me permission to propose you a toast.

Honour has been done to-night, I must say, with an unsparing hand. The Queen, the Prince, the Army, the Navy, the Church, our Magistrates, our Members, and others, have received their share, but there is one gentleman here to-night who in my

estimation has a large demand upon his fellow-men, and is deserving of all honour at our hands, for the manly, straightforward, and upright conduct that has governed all his actions: the gentleman I allude to is Mr. ———.

Gentlemen, I thank you for this applause, it shows me I did not err in my judgment of the character of Mr. ———, nor in your estimation of it. I have had the honour of knowing Mr. ——— for a long series of years, and, having been closely associated with him in many transactions, can fearlessly aver a more honest man does not exist, a better father, or more sincere friend. For his deeds of charity let the poor speak, and their tongue is legion. Of all that should become a man Mr. ——— stands possessed; and when we toast the great, the brave, the wise, and the sacred, the worthy must not be forgotten: so, then, Mr. Chairman, I shall thank you to order bumpers for the toast, "The Good Health of Mr. ———."

Toast.—"Health of the Chairman."—By the Vice or a Friend.

GENTLEMEN,—In due course the lot has fallen on me to propose the next toast. I am delighted at the opportunity afforded me, to do honour to the chair; and although there be many whose abilities better qualify them for the task, no man will I yield to for sincerity. Our chairman, gentlemen, has been known to some of you for many years, and therefore of his private worth I need not speak further than this, that the more one knows of him, the better one likes him; for the manner in which he has ruled for our comfort to-night, let his acts speak for

him: maintaining order, yet, with that suavity of manner, obedience is enforced. We felt, ever ready with smart repartee and joke, that his presence makes a continual feast. Such is the gentleman who has presided at our festive board to-day; he it is whom we delight to honour, and of whom, in the language of Shakspeare, it may be said,

"A merrier man,
Within the limits of becoming mirth,
I never spent an hour's talk withal."

Gentlemen—"The Chairman."

Toast.—"*Health of the Chairman.*"

GENTLEMEN,—An opportunity is afforded to me, during the temporary absence of our worthy chairman, to propose to you a toast—one well deserving of support at your hands. At all happy meetings and social gatherings, like the present, it is essentially necessary for the well-being and order of the evening's entertainment, that we should have a good chairman to preside over us—to keep us in order—to keep us in a good temper; and so that the business of the evening, for which we have met, may be carried out in a manner worthy of the object for which we have assembled, and that it may be conducted in such a manner as will give us credit and respect with the outer public. The success of all gatherings, akin to the present, is invariably in the hands of the chairman; to his business habits and general knowledge of the world, and its manners and customs—to his acquaintance with the general working of a society like that which has met here this evening. That Mr. ———, our worthy chairman, has performed the duties appertaining to the office on this occasion, in a manner which deserves our warmest thanks, I think you

will all agree to; and I am sure you will, one and all, agree to join with me in drinking his good health. I feel proud and happy to be presided over by a gentleman of his standing and ability, and I am sure his constant study is to render himself both agreeable and useful to his fellow-man. He is ever ready to join the convivial board, to help to the success of any other similar undertakings, by giving his time and countenance to the objects that any society or festivity may have in view. I could enlarge very much more on his merits, but time bids me to be brief,

"Good, the more
Communicated, the more abundant grows."

Now, as it is agreed on all sides, that we have a good chairman, I say that we cannot do better than drink his jolly good health; so all you that are of the same opinion will at once join with me in the toast of "Good health to the Chairman," and with musical honours:—

"For he's a jolly good fellow!
For he's a jolly good fellow!
For he's a jolly good fellow!
Which nobody can deny!"

Hip! hip! hip! hurrah! hurrah!

Response of the Chairman.

Mr. Vice and Gentlemen—For the compliment you have just paid me, in drinking my health so enthusiastically, I can but thank you most sincerely. Whatever I may have deserved at your hands, in the quality of chairman, beyond that which would have fallen to the lot of "any other man" in similar circumstances, I am at a loss to know; and why the gentleman who did me the

honour of proposing it, should have passed on me so flattering an eulogium, is to me likewise mysterious; I cannot be vain enough to suppose I deserve one half of the praise he showered on me, and you endorsed. I have merely, in my capacity of chairman, endeavoured to carry out your requirements, and, in the maintenance of order, have feebly contributed to the harmony of the evening; but, gentlemen, the real strength was with you, for, without your help, my efforts would have been utterly powerless—without your support my hammer would have been barren—but as "unity is strength," our united efforts have culminated in as glorious an evening as it has ever been my lot to witness; and as you have so liberally rewarded me for my part in it, permit me to thank you, one and all, not only for your support in the harmony of the evening, but for the generous expression of good will you have evinced toward me. I drink to you all, and thank you.

Toast.—"The Health of the Vice-Chairman."

GENTLEMEN,—A toast has been placed in my hands for me to submit for your approval. I feel certain of its success, and when I name to you the worthy individual whose health I propose should be drank, you, I am sure, will all agree with me, that he has, by his conduct during this evening, well merited your esteem, confidence, and support. The person whose health I shall propose is well known to you all, and he has only to be known to be respected. I have had the honour of being acquainted with him for many years, and can bear testimony to his general good conduct as a citizen,

a father, and a husband; and in each and every phase he is exemplary. He has the happy knack, if I may be allowed to use the expression, of rendering himself agreeable and useful, and I can safely say, that

"My friend is the man you should copy through life;
He harbours no mischief, he causes no strife.
Content in his station,
He minds his occupation,"

and is, "taking him for all in all," a very first-class fellow. I have therefore much pleasure in proposing the health of Mr. ———, our Vice-Chairman.

Toast.—"*The Vice-Chairman.*"

GENTLEMEN—I rise to propose the health of a Gentleman whose services have been very valuable to us to-day, and to whom, in conjunction with our Chairman, we are indebted for the very admirable arrangements made for our comfort. I mean the Vice-Chairman. Not only has he by his admirable conduct contributed to the harmony of the day, but by his urbanity he has conciliated every antagonistic element, thereby lessening considerably the labours of the chair, to whom he has been a firm and consistent support, and thereby earned our thanks. With your permission, then, I propose the health of the Vice-Chairman.

Toast.—"*The Host and Hostess.*"

MR. CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN—It seems to me that a very important part of to-night's duty stands a very fair chance of being neglected, and I am sure no gentleman here would willingly forget this duty. In order, then, that we

may not be found wanting I have obtained from the chair permission to give a toast.

Gentlemen, I shall have no difficulty in my task; I shall only have to ask you to remember how we have been regaled to-day; to think of the splendid banquet laid before us; unlike Macbeth's, ours had no ghost, nor is the "order of our going, go at once."

Looking round I see in every face the index of the wearer's mind, jovial and jolly—jovial and jolly. Now this jollity is due to something, and I shall not be far wrong if I at once attribute it to the good things our careful host has furnished us with to-day, and in the selection of which he may be fairly termed Prince of Caterers. But not to him alone would I award the whole of the great meed of praise so justly earned; there is another person, and that no less a person than our hostess, whom I would associate with him in my toast; for, as the labour has been shared by her, so indeed should the laurels be. To her good taste we owe the decorations of our table, and to their joint efforts the success that has attended our festive meeting. To the host and hostess, then, I call on you to drink, with the wish that both may live many years to enjoy the reward of their industry and perseverance, and that we may meet again for many years to come, to partake of such good cheer.

Toast.—"The Health of the worthy Host and Hostess."

GENTLEMEN.—I rise to propose a toast which I am sure will meet with the cordial support at your hands the subjects of it so deservingly merit. Eng-

lishmen are proverbial for their love of a good dinner; and in speaking on that subject the late popular writer, Douglas Jerrold, said, "that if the world was to come to an end he had no doubt that a few Englishmen would meet together and find some little corner wherein they could have a good dinner to celebrate the event." This, coming as it does from so keen an observer of men and manners, justifies me in using the remark that we all love a good dinner. But, Gentlemen, what is the use of the provisions for a good dinner if they are not well cooked and well served up, and placed before us with all those necessary adjuncts which tempt the appetite and please the palate; and to please and tempt the appetites of a large party like that assembled on this occasion, is no sinecure, for "Doth not the appetite alter? A man loves the meat at his youth that he cannot endure in his age." But for all that I think you will agree with me that the manner in which Mr. and Mrs. ——— have placed the various viands before us to-day is deserving of our praise and thanks. I have ever found our worthy Host ready and willing to oblige, and meet the wishes of his friends and customers. And I am happy to say that he has from his general good conduct and urbanity won for himself the support and esteem of a large portion of the inhabitants of this district. The house and all appertaining to it has very much improved under his management; he has proved himself to be a good caterer for the general public—no mean task—and the public have in return appreciated his efforts, and have rallied around him morning, noon, and night—in fact, he has proved himself to be "the right man in the right place." Now it is said that it is "not in mortals to command success;" but he has done more, he has

deserved it, and been thereby rewarded. Boswell, in writing to Dr. Johnson, in 1776, says, "There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced, as by a good tavern or inn." It would really appear that "There is no new thing under the sun." Boswell wrote his remarks nearly a hundred years ago. But if John Smith, of Pentonville and the City, had been writing home from Brighton, or any other watering place, there and back for so much, to his Hannah Maria only as last week, could he have said anything different or better than Boswell? I say, no! unless the fertile brain of my friend, John Smith—I suppose you have all heard that name before?—a capital fellow, John Smith.—Well, he might have written thus, "There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced, as by a good tavern or inn," particularly when it is kept by a man like Mr. ———, our Host. That John Smith might have added. Now there was a "jolly old clergyman" named Shenstone; he was evidently fond of the good things of this life, and had found out where to get them, for he wrote—

Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,
Where'er his stages may have been,
May sigh to think he still has found,
The warmest welcome at an inn.

You see the Clergyman and Poet knew How, When, and Where the creature comforts are to be found. George Combe, the author of "Dr. Syntax," who was fond of his pipe and glass—"as all good fellows should"—wrote—

Along the varying road of life,
In calm content, in toil or strife,
At morn or noon, by night or day,
As time conducts him on the way,
How oft doth man by care oppress'd,
Find at an inn a place of rest.

Again he says—

Where'er his fancy bids him roam,
In ev'ry inn he finds a home;
Will not an inn his cares beguile,
Where on each face he sees a smile?

I will at once conclude, as I fear I have wearied your patience, by proposing to you long life, health, and happiness to our respected host and hostess Mr. and Mrs. ———, hip, hip, hurrah; and one cheer more for the little ones, for they are jolly good fellows, which nobody can deny.

A Reply of a Host to the last Toast.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I rise to return thanks to a toast which my worthy friend Mr. ——— informs me has been drunk during my absence, and that, Mr. Chairman, as I am given to understand, was my health, and that of my wife and family. Some poet has said, "Save oh! save me from my candid friends." I say so, too, sir, for had my friend, Mr. ———, *saved* me on this occasion it would have *saved* me the trouble of making a speech —at which I am but a very poor hand—and it would have *saved* you the trouble and annoyance of listening to it; so that we should *all* in some way or the other been *saved*, and a *save-all* we know is a very useful thing in a poor man's kitchen. But, gentlemen, I think the best thing I can do now will be to *save* your time, for we all know it "flies fast."

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—When I was a boy we had a saying amongst us that "when you are in a mess the best way was to get out of it as soon as possible"—that is my intention on the present occasion; therefore, gentlemen, for the very kind and considerate manner in which you have drunk

and responded to the toast of my health, and that of my wife and family, I return you my sincere thanks on my own and their behalf. I am proud to think that our conduct has merited your esteem. I am sure I feel proud of meeting such a numerous and respectable party of friends as that which I now see assembled here to-day (or this evening) and thank you all heartily and cordially for your kindness and support. I feel pleased that you are pleased; I am proud to hear it stated that the "good things of this life," which we have placed before you, have given satisfaction. I hope to have the honour of meeting you here again on many such merry meetings as the present. And now, once more—for the hearty and very kind manner in which you have proposed and responded to my health, and that of my wife and family—gentlemen, I thank you; and may health and prosperity follow and be with you all to the end of your days—and one day after that.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you for the manner in which you have responded to the toast having reference to myself and family. I need not tell you that, although accustomed to public life, I am not accustomed to "public speaking." I am more accustomed to doing——doing what I can for the gratification of my friends and patrons, and therefore "deeds, not words," are my vocation, and I trust they will have given you satisfaction, as also the efforts of my wife, without whose valuable assistance I should fail in my utmost endeavours. For my helpmate and myself, I again return you my heartfelt thanks, and assure you that nothing will give us greater pleasure than to contribute to your satisfaction on a future occasion.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Speech.—On Election to the Chair in an Odd Fellow's Lodge.

Most Noble Grand, Vice-Grand, Officers, and Brothers,—You have to night conferred on me the distinguished honour of placing me at the head of your Lodge to preside over you for the ensuing term. I deem this so high an honour that when I first became an Odd Fellow I could not have hoped ever to achieve it. I could not believe that it would ever be my lot to sit under this canopy and wear this Regalia. I know that your confidence has been gained by my constant attendance at Lodge, and the zeal I have endeavoured to use in fulfilling the minor offices, which, from time to time, you have entrusted me with. Brethren, I have but few words in return to say, and those are that I shall be constant to my duties, and all the intelligence I can bring to hear shall be used for the best interests of the order in general, and this Lodge in particular; all that I have promised to do I will perform, and to all intents and purposes prove myself an Odd Fellow, not content alone to see the mottos of the order emblazoned on the banners, but one who makes them his rule of action, that shall gain the faith of his supporters, the hope of the Lodge, and charity to all.

Toast.—"THE HEALTH OF THE SECRETARY."

GENTLEMEN,—In proposing to you the health of the Secretary I must be allowed to dwell a little upon the services he has rendered, a very slight mention of which will warrant you in according me your upraised hands and voices to the health of the Secretary.

In a financial point of view he is the Officer of all others that you could least do without; upon his accuracy and trustworthiness depends entirely the existence of our Lodge, and his unwearied care and attention is requisite to keep the machine in healthy motion. When, therefore, we find a Brother combining all these elements, and exercising them zealously for the good of our Lodge, he of all others should not escape honorable mention at the festive board. These, then, are the reasons for drinking the health of Brother ———, the Secretary. I do not think you will need more, but if you did they might be doubled, and then we should fall short in our estimation of the good qualities of our Brother ———, the Lodge Secretary.

Toast.—"THE STEWARDS."

GENTLEMEN,—In following the programme placed before me I have to call on you to drink the health of the Stewards. Had it not been for the services so ably and so freely rendered by these gentlemen, in all probability this meeting, which has afforded us so much pleasure, would never have taken place; judge, then, how remiss it would be on our part to suffer such services to pass unnoticed. Gentlemen, we are indebted to the Stewards not only for the means

afforded for our banquet, but also for making every arrangement for the success of the same; to them the programme and all the arrangements are due; and, this being the case, I say it is due from us that we drink health and prosperity to them in a bumper.

Toast.—"THE COMMITTEE."

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN,—There are very few amongst us who do not know the vast amount of trouble devolving upon a Committee who undertake the getting up of an entertainment like that which we have had presented to us to day. The crosses, vexations, and delays that arise, before the enterprise assumes a ship-shape form, are matters patent to all those who have ever served on a Committee. Now, for the eminent success attendant on the Committee of this entertainment, we must toast them with hand and heart, for surely they deserve it; rise then, gentlemen, and drink with me to the health of "The Managing Committee."

Toast.—"THE LODGE SURGEON."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND BRETHREN,—There is a gentleman, and a very important Officer of our Lodge, whose valuable services have earned for him the grateful thanks and best wishes of every Brother. It is the Officer to whom we apply when assailed by sickness, and laid on the bed of anguish. He it is who, like a ministering angel, comes to our relief, and where he cannot heal, assuages. I need not tell you that the Lodge Surgeon is the Officer to whom I allude, and I am sure there is not a brother in the Lodge who has ever needed the services of Surgeon ——— without having received imme-

diate attention. I say, then, upon a festival like this 'twould be ungrateful and indecorous on our part to pass unnoticed such services as I have alluded to. Join me then in our best wishes for the welfare of brother ———, Lodge Surgeon, and long life to him and his ———.

Toast.—"THE TREASURER."

GENTLEMEN,—Whilst doing honour to our several Officers there is one who, although not so prominently before the Lodge, is nevertheless of great importance —I mean the Treasurer. I am sure the trouble he takes on our account, and the many inconveniences he endures for our benefit, would alone entitle him to our grateful thanks; but there is greater cause, our Treasurer is a gentlemen who has ever shewn the warmest interest in our success, who has watched over and fostered our growth, and is ever ready to assist us if needed; and I say again, that to him our thanks are richly due, and I call on you all to support me in drinking the health of the "Treasurer."

Speech.—PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—As the occasion which has called us together to night is patent to you all, it would be but useless occupation of your time for me to enlarge thereon. I shall, therefore content myself by simply stating that in accordance with the wish of the subscribers to the testimonial I have before me, you have been called together to night.

It is at all times, gentlemen, a pleasing task to do honour to those we esteem, but the pleasure

manifestly increases when we find that this esteem is shared by so large a body as those who form the subscribers in the present case; but in proportion as the pleasure increases, so does the diffidence one feels when called on, as I am, to be the exponent of the feelings of the subscribers. Now, Sir, there may be many, and doubtless are, who by their abilities are far more competent than myself to discharge the duty I have undertaken, but there is no man living to whom I will yield one grain of the estimation I hold for our friend, the object of our meeting to night. Taking then my labour as a labour of love, for it assuredly is so, I must carry you with me as I travel along, and ask you to take up the burden of my song, which shall be "honour to the worthy!" I will not dilate on the many good services rendered by our friend, or the upright and manly conduct that has characterized his course in life, winning for him as it has done the esteem of all; as a friend, as a man, as a citizen, he has gained golden opinions, and that fair fame that ever crowns the worker of good deeds. Were he not present much more might be said and endorsed by every one here; as it is we must be content. And now, Mr. ———, the happy task is mine to present you in the name of myself and the subscribers with this ————. May your life be long to look on it as a feeble token of the high estimation formed of you by so many of your fellow men, and when it shall please the great Architect of the universe to remove you from this life, may this ——— descend as an heirloom to your children, and stimulate them to a course that won for their ancestor the praise and respect of his fellowmen.

Response.—For a Testimonial, presented to a Member who is about to leave his native town or country.

MR. CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,—I know not how to find words to thank you for the valuable present which you have made me; but I can assure you that when I had the honour of fulfilling the various offices to which I have been from time to time selected, I have endeavoured faithfully to discharge the duties appertaining to those offices, and it is the conciousness of this that makes me more fully appreciate the testimonial. If I have done my duty you have also done yours—and done it nobly. When I look on the testimonial you have this evening presented to me, I shall ever think of the many happy hours I have spent among you. You are all aware that I go "To-morrow to fresh woods and pastures new," that I am about to quit this, "My native land," to seek in a foreign clime my future fortune. It is always a sad, hard task to bid good bye to friends. Can you wonder that it is very difficult for me to utter the earnest expression of what I feel in addressing you for the last time, friends, playmates, shopmates, and relations, and last though not least the brethren and visitors of this Lodge, from whom I have received so warm a welcome and such generous kindness that I shall always speak and think of you as my best and dearest of friends. While I say this, I think on more than I behold. It is not alone the members of this Lodge to whom I wish to acknowledge my deep indebtedness, but to the members of the various Lodges in the town and district, and to several of the tradesmen, also to the liberal subscriptions

to the testimonial; and the most unequivocal success has met, I am informed, the committee's exertions in getting up this handsome testimonial you have been pleased to present me with. And I have to thank all present more than all for this social welcome, so genial, so heartfelt, which I shall ever cherish with affectionate regret; the remembrance of the scenes of this evening will ever be associated with your generous kindness. In all probability I shall never see you more. In a few days I leave my native country to seek, as I have before observed, "Fresh woods and pastures new." But the joyous thought of again joining some of my nearest relatives, who have gone out to Australia before me, does not overmaster the deep sadness of my farewell to the members of this Lodge, with whom I have so long been connected, and who so cherished my dawning desire to fill the various offices I have had the honour of being elected to during my membership, to which early association has endeared me. Our great poet has sung of "benefits forgot"—mine will not be of them. In the quiet hours of home life, though far away, I shall think of you very, very, often. I know there are those here to night whose faces I have never seen, whose good wishes, nevertheless, go with me to my distant and new home. Again, sincerely thanking you one and all for this testimonial of your good wishes, I affectionately bid you farewell; also I say, God bless you! good bye! and

"Adieu, my native land adieu!
The vessel spreads her swelling sails,
Perhaps I never more may view
Your fertile fields, your flowery dales."

Toast.—"*Prosperity to the* ——— *Society.*"

GENTLEMEN,—In obedience to the request that I should propose the next toast, I gladly rise, and thank those who have had the management of these pleasing proceedings for the honour they have conferred upon me in selecting me to give *the* toast of the evening. Having been connected with one or two kindred societies for many years, and taking a deep interest in the Friendly Society movement, I have closely watched its progress, and have seen, with pleasure and delight, that the artisan no longer looks upon his Lodge, Court, or Club in any other light but the true one, namely, that of an insurance office, though upon a minor scale, whereby he makes provision for the hour of sickness, and, should he be removed by the hand of death, secures his family for a time from the pangs of poverty. Time was when the Odd-Fellow, the Forester, or the Druid, attended his society meeting solely for the sake of conviviality—and, indeed, they were originally instituted with this view; but the practical mind of the Englishman soon saw something of greater utility than this, and, without giving up his love for jollity and good companionship, he gradually worked those "secret" gatherings into such a shape, that Societies of this kind are no longer looked upon with suspicion, but are encouraged by the affluent, and receive the fostering care of the Government. As I just now remarked, these societies are small insurance offices, for they give to the mechanic what the insurance office gives to the upper and middle classes, and upon easier terms, the result of having the management of the business in their own hands at a nominal cost, instead of having an expensive Di-

rectory and a large staff of managers and agents to share in the profits of the capital. Such societies deserve the assistance of the upper classes, because they very materially lighten the poor-rates by engendering thriftiness, and promoting a spirit of independence among a class who but a few years since naturally looked to the Guardians of the Poor and the Parish Surgeon in the day of adversity and affliction. Gentlemen, in conclusion, I give you "Prosperity to the ——— Society, and Health to its Members."

Response by the Secretary.

GENTLEMEN,—Being called upon to respond to the last toast, I thank you on behalf of the Society for the very kind way in which you received its name, and for your cordial wishes for its future welfare. The sentiments expressed by the gentleman who proposed its prosperity, and the enthusiastic manner in which you have endorsed those sentiments, fully convince me that you perfectly understand the nature of our Institution and the principles which it inculcates, a knowledge of which relieves me from the task of entering into any exposition of the character of the Society. But of its financial position I may say this much—that our funds were never in a more flourishing condition, for with a larger accession of new members than in any previous year—a proof that our intentions are beginning to be understood and appreciated—we have had, I am pleased to say, less sickness and fewer deaths. With these remarks, gentlemen, I beg to again thank you on behalf of the members of the ——— Society (Lodge or Court).

Response by the Treasurer.

GENTLEMEN,—It is not a very usual thing for an officer holding my position in a society to be called upon to speak, the duties being merely nominal; but I must corroborate what the Secretary has said with reference to the financial business of the past twelve-months. Having now had the honour for many years of being your Treasurer, I can conscientiously say that your funds were never in a more healthy condition; and, occupying a similar position in one or two other societies, I can tell you that your position is an enviable one.

Response by the Stewards or Committee of Management.

GENTLEMEN,—For the very kind way in which you drank our healths, I, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, beg to return you our most hearty thanks. Whatever duties we may have performed have been performed with a singleness of purpose—the sole benefit of the Society; and, if those services have given you satisfaction, we are more than repaid. The reception you gave the toast gives us great gratification, and will stimulate our exertions to assist in promoting the prosperity of the Society.

Response by an Officer of the Order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN and Brothers, on behalf of the Officers of Lodge ———, of ———,—I beg to respond to the toast which you have done us the honour to drink with so much unanimity. It is at all times pleasing to hear it acknowledged that our

efforts to promote the order and well-being of the Lodge have given satisfaction. I can assure you that each of my brother officers has endeavoured faithfully, and at the same time fearlessly, to see that the rules and regulations as laid in our general and bye-laws are carried out in their integrity, and I am happy to say that the members have evinced a desire to assist us in every possible way, and to cause our duties to be easily carried out in such a manner as to give you satisfaction. With these few remarks I will conclude by returning you, on behalf of my brother officers, our sincere thanks.

Toast.—"The Visitors,"—by the Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—Having now run through the whole of my routine toasts in connexion with our Order, I will propose for your consideration a toast of a different character. At our annual festival we are at all times pleased to see a large and influential gathering of the Brethren, but there is another class of persons we are at all times glad to see join us,—I allude to the Visitors, and whose health I am sure you will all wish to see done justice to, as we are very much indebted to them in more senses than one; for by their countenancing our social gatherings we learn that our society meets with their approbation. We are also grateful to them for their pecuniary support in the way of donations in aid of our funds. I therefore trust you will all rise on this occasion and join heart and hand with me to "fill the bumper full," and drink Health, Long Life, and Prosperity to the Visitors, coupling with it the name of Mr. ————.

Response to the Visitors by a Tradesman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—I rise as a Visitor to your annual festival to acknowledge the last toast. I am not in the secret of your mysteries and signs, but the pass-word has just been given me to say a few words; I may therefore have an opportunity of making myself an Odd Fellow before I have done. I am at all times pleased to attend at the anniversaries of Friendly Societies, being convinced that they do an immense amount of good to the individual members and to society in general. The working man who has the prudence and forethought to guard against the expenses of sickness by subscribing a weekly sum from his earnings for that purpose, I have ever found to be a better man in every respect than the one who neglects that duty that he owes to himself, his wife and family, and his fellow men. Odd Fellows, Foresters, Druids, and Friendly Society men in general do much for themselves by making provisions for sickness and old age, and very materially assist the rate-paying portion of the population. Your Secretary has in his financial statement of the past year proved my assertion, and I think it would be well if at your annual meetings you opened the doors a little wider, to enable more visitors to attend than I am in the habit of seeing. I believe there are many persons in the town who are not aware of one half of the good effected by Friendly Societies, and simply because they are not made acquainted that at the annual dinner others than the members are admitted. Gentlemen, as a mark of my appreciation of the merits of your society, I have much pleasure in handing to your Chairman a guinea to the funds. On behalf of the visitors with whom you have coupled my name I am pleased to acknowledge the toast, and to wish success to the ——— Society.

CO-OPERATION.

Speech on Co-operation and Temperance.

GENTLEMEN,—Various schemes have been devised from time to time by different people for the elevation of the working classes. Some have told them there was a want of more schools; others seemed to think that, by the erection of more churches and chapels, much good would be done for them; others called out loudly for the vote for the working classes, and sought to elevate them in that way. But, after all, however useful each of these things might be in their sphere, they were but imperfect in themselves, and would not really be able to effect much good for the working classes; so long as the working classes look to others for help, so long will they remain in their prostrate condition. The true secret was that they should help themselves. They had all read the old fable of the man whose cart was stuck in the rut, and who called on Hercules to help him out of his difficulty, and was told to put his shoulder to the wheel and get it out himself. So with the working classes. If they were to be elevated, it must be the result of their own efforts; if they were to become superior to their present condition, it must be the result of their own labour and their own exertion. Among all the schemes which had been broached for this purpose, there were none so powerful, so thoroughly effective,

as was this one of co-operation. Some years since a number of well meaning men in London, started a scheme of co-operation. This went on for some time with varying success; but owing to some circumstances, principally arising from the previous want of education among the working men themselves, the majority of these schemes fell to the ground; but some were still in existence. Since that period the movement had taken a deeper hold of the working classes, as of course it would; for if there was any truth in the movement as being harmonious with the nature of man, of necessity it would in course of time be adopted, more especially when it came to be investigated by the working men themselves. Co-operation was an instinct of man's nature. Man must co-operate if he would employ the faculties nature has implanted within his breast. It pervades the whole history of mankind. We see it in riches, as well as in poverty and crime. There was an old adage that said, "Birds of a feather flock together." "A man is known by the company he keeps." Your thieves and pickpockets co-operate and reside, to a considerable extent, in certain districts. The man who picks a pocket and he who receives the stolen goods to a certain extent co-operate. Co-operation runs throughout the whole realm of nature. Let them look at the principles of co-operation. You take a grain of wheat, and drop it into the ground, and in the course of some few months you gather from that wheat a harvest; in proportion to the quantity of wheat you have sown, so is the harvest you gather. That is the result of co-operation; but there must be the rain from heaven, and the wind and sun; all these forces must be co-operating and working together before you can gather your harvest as a food for the people. And

when you have it, just go a step further. You have got your grain, and you wish it to be made into bread. Here you must bring the principles of co-operation to bear again. It has to be sent to the corn merchant, the miller, and the baker before you can get your bread. All these causes must be brought together before the tradesmen can be supplied with the staff of existence, and before it can be placed on your table.

If they looked at the most industrious of the animal tribe, it was the same principle carried out, and it was man alone who was found to co-operate for the purposes of destruction. Man co-operated sometimes for the purposes of evil, but if they looked into nature, and watched the beasts and birds of prey, it would be seen that they lived, for the most part, a solitary and isolated life; but animals of the most industrious class led social lives. If the ant was watched, it would be found that it laid up food for the winter in a marvellous and ingenious manner; nay, they might even see two ants co-operate, both pulling as hard as they can at a little bit of straw in order to get it home to their nests. If they looked at the workings of the bee in its hive, and saw the beautiful and wonderful structure of the comb, stored as it was with honey, this was all brought about by the principle of co-operation. They start out and search out individually through the whole realm of flowery-land, and bring back the honey into their hives and store it up for the winter. If they went into the Pacific Islands, and saw the small insects working constantly together under the sea, and producing that beautiful substance called coral, with which our mantle-shelves were adorned; and soil having accumulated, islands were formed, upon which grew the fruits and flowers, and habitations fit for

man—this would be found to be done all by the co-operation of these insects. So he might go on all through the natural world, and show that co-operation was the principle which pervaded all industrial economy, not only the human family but all through the order of creation itself. It was thus that the world had been made a fit residence for man, who was king of the whole creation. After seeing how the lower animals co-operated, did not man also need to co-operate? Men were not created independent of each other; but, on the contrary, were dependent one on the other; and this was only just beginning to be found out. And not only was one man or one town dependent on the other, but also one country on the other. And as the Creator of the world had made various temperatures in various countries, so He has made man all his life thoroughly dependent on his fellow-man, and in the co-operation and work of others, whom he never saw, and who resided perhaps at the very antipodes.

Man is not independent. Man is that very complex animal, so to speak, that he is both dependent and independent. There were portions of his constitution in which he is perfectly independent of any other man's aid; he is also, at the same time, in other respects, and which could not be denied or doubted, dependent on others not only for material prosperity but also for elevation and instruction.

Co-operation was no new thing. The first they read of it was shortly after the Flood, when it was used for the purpose of building the Tower of Babel. This was not lost sight of; and if they came down to the present time, it would be found that immense works had been constructed by the aid of co-operation, some by means of Government authority, others of a compulsory nature, in which individuals had

been compelled to work in raising certain buildings. Such were the pyramids in Egypt. People could not understand how it was they were erected. Yet they were the result of co-operation, by which such stupendous works were executed. Nay, our very cities and towns were raised by the same agency. Men came and lived in towns, put house to house, street to street, and square to square, and thus formed one compact and harmonious community—all showing our dependence on each other. Look at our gigantic railways, extending throughout the length and breadth of the land. These could not have been brought about without the principle of co-operation. Engineering skill, capital, and labour have all combined to bring about the development of railway communication by which a person might travel the length and breadth of England in comfort and safety. Look at our docks and canals; look at the Thames, or go to Liverpool and see the immense extent of docks there, and they would see the wonderful results of the principles of co-operation. Or see their Life Insurance Companies; what were they but the exemplification of this very principle of co-operation? Of late years, too, the Joint Stock Banks were, through the same principle, brought to a beneficial result. It was only of late that the working classes had sought to relieve themselves by the benefits of co-operation. There appears to have existed for many years with the working classes a sort of idea that capital and labour were antagonistic; that labour had its rights contrary from those of capital; hence we have had masters and men quarrelling, we have had lock-outs and strikes. Now he was not a supporter of the old state of the law, which forbade combination among workmen; he held it was perfectly justifiable; that masters and men had a right

to combine. But he thought, after all, if men saw their true interests, they would find in this principle of co-operation the real means of elevating themselves, and not by mere strikes, which produced a vast amount of misery and wretchedness. Calculations had been made by which it was found the masters gained in the end, for they had capital to depend upon. They suffered a temporary inconvenience, it was true; but when they got to work again they soon made up for lost lime. But the working man loses his all; he has little to eat at first, and shortly nothing, and has at last to give in to his master. That was the history of most strikes. But if workmen would seek to economise their capital, and save it—for the working classes have capital—they would have wherewith to fall back on in times of adversity. What was capital? All men started equally, and it was just the result of labour; it was labour that made capital; it was labour that laid its foundation. If they went out in a desert wilderness, and wished to make it into a fruitful garden, it must be done by labour. So it was with all things in this world. Men set to work, some being perhaps rather cleverer than others, and contrived to get more work, and more capital came to their share. Capital was created by labour; and if the working men, when they were labouring, would think and reflect that they were making capital, and what they could save by capital was the result of labour saved, which was capable of being employed to profitable purposes, this would be the beginning of the accumulation of fortunes. The question for the working man was whether he should not have a large portion of that which he had created. The working man hires himself, and receives his wages, and has not he a right to a certain share or propor-

tion of the profits beyond the mere amount of wages he receives as a matter of barter between his master and himself? Some think he has; and here the principle of co-operation steps in, and it was sought to give the working man a share of that capital which floats about the country. When capital is once created, it as a marvellous tendency to increase. If a man has a quantity of money and locks it up in a drawer, it will not increase, but will be, at the end of a certain number of years, the same amount as when first put into the drawer; but if he lends it or employs it in trade or manufacture, it naturally has a tendency to increase, so that at the end of twelve months he is a richer man through placing out his money at interest or otherwise, and both himself and the community are benefitted. The working classes may have a share in the capital of the country if they will only begin by laying by and saving from their labour. The way to begin is to save a certain proportion of the capital of their incomes.

A good deal has been done by co-operative societies. A list of co-operative societies was published by the Conference at Rochdale, containing 150 societies, with 48,184 members, a capital of £333,290, and doing business, in 1861, to the amount of £1,512,117. Of these 121 started since 1856.

If other towns in England would follow the Rochdale Pioneers, they would be the pioneers of such a movement as would completely alter the face of society. The Pioneers commenced in a very humble way in 1844, with 28 members. They saw the evils resulting from strikes, and they thought they had found a remedy for the evil. These 28 men put their heads together, they raised a capital of £28—a very small beginning, but at the present time the

societies which started upon that principle now number 345 members, with a capital of upwards of £277,710. The progress of the Pioneers has been gradual and continuous. In 1845, there were 74 members, with a capital of over £100. So it went on till they were able to establish in connection with their society first, a flour mill, then a manufactory, then a large cotton mill. This was ample evidence of the amount of good the men were doing themselves, and showed also they were capable of conducting a large institution. That which the men of Rochdale have done the men of ———— can do, and other towns can do. ———— men were akin to them, and were Englishmen like them. They had only to go to work, and use their own wisdom and experience to advance themselves, and that would be found far better than any help they could derive from any other source.

There were great benefits in connection with co-operation beyond the material prosperity which it brought. There were other advantages which resulted from the principle which were more important than a pecuniary result. It was impossible to make a man have a share in a co-operative society, or a bank, or business, without at the same time elevating his character, for when you once instil into a man that he can become elevated above the condition in which he now exists, even to be the owner of the cottage in which he lives, and having a voice in the Government of the State, you have excited within him hopes, and consequently a desire to aim at his own mental improvement as well as material advantage. For instance, a man who is a member of a co-operative society begins to become a prudent man. He has a little capital, and he says, instead of spending and living up to the whole of his income, he begin to save; and he does that which still

further tends to elevate his character—he begins to exercise self-denial. The 53 millions of money spent in intoxicating drinks are raised by small sums of threepences, sixpences, and shillings expended by men of the working classes—spent on Saturday nights, Sundays, and Mondays. This was the aggregate of the great sum total resulting through intoxicating drink. Where men had left off these things, and become customers to the butcher and baker, their families, which used to be in rags, were now well clothed, and all of them had put on an appearance of respectability.

Well now, as to the success of the co-operative movement. In order to ensure success in any co-operative movement, there must be certain principles which must guide those who are engaged in the movement. One great principle was, that they must have confidence in one another. It was no use starting without that. The Bible says, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." If the members begin to find fault one with another—if they have no confidence in themselves and in those to whom they entrust the management of their concerns—they will soon find their co-operative scheme will become a grand failure. Above all things, they must determine to succeed. If men determined to succeed, it was generally found they were successful; if the working-classes set out with a determination to be successful, they were sure to be successful. They must not be discouraged by small beginnings; everything great has had a small beginning; that magnificent oak was once contained in the germ of a small acorn. It is by study, and constant and persistent perseverance from small beginnings that strength was gathered to produce large results. With the principle of vitality—and there was vitality in the co-operative movement—no matter how small

their beginnings, with the resolve and determination to succeed, depend upon it they would be sure to succeed. There was one gratifying feature connected with the cash statement of the Pioneers' Society; that was, that the whole of the sales had been for ready money. One of the rules they laid down was, never to depart from the principle of buying and selling for ready money. You must at first be sure your society is founded upon right principles; you must then confide in one another, with a determination to succeed, and on the principle of ready money transactions, and then you are certain to have a successful co-operative existence. You must not be daunted by difficulty; there are sure to be difficulties, there never was anything achieved yet which had not to struggle with difficulties at first. Every new thing at its starting has been laughed at. No doubt this was the case at Rochdale; but they succeeded; and if you are resolved to persevere and succeed, you will triumph, and the very men who predicted a failure will come round and say, "We always thought there was something in it, after all."

Another important matter with respect to this movement, is, that the working man, to take any part in the co-operative society, must know something of arithmetic. The working man who does not understand whether the balance-sheet is correct or not will be left at the mercy of those who have the affairs in hand. Here was a direct spur, a direct incentive to the working man to improve and educate himself if he meant to embark in a commercial undertaking of this kind. It would tend to make him of industrious habits. When working men complain of their position, and say their masters get too much and themselves too little, and when they think of their master riding out in his carriage and leading a very nice life—they may just think over this, and

continually bear in mind "that if the working men were to save like the masters, and the masters were to spend like the working men, their relative positions would soon be altered." Wealth, after all, is not a curse, but a blessing. We have a right to wealth and money. It is wealth that has created our railways; it is by means of wealth that the enormous commerce of our country is transacted; it produces the comforts and luxuries of life; it brings tea, coffee, and sugar to our shores; tends to civilise and refine man, enables man to educate himself, and to become a civilised human being. Wealth is not a bad thing, it is a good thing. It may be a curse; it is capable of being made a great blessing. It may tyrannise and bring evil in its train. It may be the means of benefiting the whole community, including the working classes themselves. The Bible does not say, "Money is the root of all evil," but it says, "The *love of money* is the root of all evil." These societies tended to make a man accumulate property, made him thoughtful, accustomed him to business transactions; and there was the very surest guarantee, when he had property, that he would exercise his power in a way which should not be detrimental to the interests of the nation. The co-operative movement had the sanction of the very highest authority: but not to be guided by what others said, they should examine for themselves on this point, so that they might arrive at a just conclusion in their own mind. They ought not to bow to the dicta of any man; co-operation had long been used in other places, and why should it not be used here? They perhaps sometimes wondered at the success which attended some men in life. But although every man could not become wealthy, yet every man was capable of advancing himself from that position in which he now stands. "Onwards and upwards"

should be our aim. The aim of every man should be to advance himself still higher in life. He knew no plan by which the working classes could so well help themselves as by helping one another. You are able to do very little, you say; you only earn so much a-week; it is a very small sum, and what can you do towards elevating yourself? Why, by uniting together small sums till they became large ones, and thus an amount of capital would be got together to start a business, and the result would become something great at last; they might even equal the Rochdale Pioneers. Above all, if they would save money, let them put away intoxicating drink, for the Temperance Movement and the Co-operative Movement were twins. These two, if allowed to work together, would help each other. They were, as it were, the life-buoys which were to elevate the working men from the sea in which they were sinking. If they looked at the condition of the agricultural labourer, the mechanic, and others, they would find these societies would be a benefit and a blessing to the whole of them. Short-sighted men considered these co-operative societies were going to injure them, in that some part of their profits would be diminished. But it would be found that even these men would be advantaged, for they would begin to save, and in their turn would have more to spend, and the consequences would be that there would be fewer poor-rates and police rates, and more money devoted to the elevation of the working classes. Let the working classes set themselves to work, and be determined to elevate and emancipate themselves, and then they will become capitalists and landholders; and let those in the higher stations of life not attempt to hinder them in their course, but rather to stimulate them in their efforts. Great results would be achieved by a wise co-operation of all classes of society.

LATIN WORDS AND PHRASES EXPLAINED.

Ab initio. From the beginning.
Ab uno disce omnes. From one you may judge of the whole.
A fortiori. With stronger reason.
A priori. From a prior reason; from the cause to the effect.
A posteriori. From a posterior reason; from the effect to the cause.
Ad captandum vulgus. To catch the rabble.
Ad infinitum. To infinity; without end.
Ad libitum. At pleasure.
Ad referendum. For further consideration.
Ad valorem. According to the value.
Alias. Otherwise.
Alibi. Elsewhere; proof of having been elsewhere.
Alma mater. (Benign Mother); the University.
A mensa et thoro. From bed and board.
Amor patriæ. Love of our country.
Anguis in herba. A snake in the grass.
Anno Domini (A.D.) In the year of our Lord
Anno Mundi (A.M.) In the year of the world.
Ante meridiem (A.M.) Before noon.
Argumentum ad hominem. Argument applied to the person.
Argumentum ad ignorantium. Argument drawn from your opponent's ignorance.
Argumentum baculinum. Argument of blows, a cudgel.
Artis est celare artem. The art is to conceal art.
Audi alteram partem. Hear the other party.
Aura popularis. The gale of popular favour.
Bona fide. In good faith.
Brutum fulmen. An impotent threat.
Cacoethes scribendi. An itch for writing.
Capias. You may take; (a law term.)
Caput mortuum. The worthless remains.
Cæteris paribus. Other circumstances being equal.
Compos mentis. Of sound mind.
Cornu copiæ. The horn of plenty.
Cui bono? To what good will it tend?
Cum privilegio. With privilege.
Currente calamo. With a running pen.
Custos rotulorum. Keeper of the rolls.
Data. Things granted.
Deceptio visus. An illusion of the eye.
De facto. From the fact; in possession.
De jure. From the law; by right.
De mortuis nil nisi bonum. Of the dead say nothing except what is good.
Dei gratia. By the grace of God.
De novo. Anew; over again.
Deo volente. God willing.
Desideratum. A thing desired.
Desunt cætera. The remainder is wanting.
Divide et impera. Divide and govern.
Dramatis personæ. The characters in a play.
Durante placito. During pleasure.
Durante vita. During life.
Equilibrium. Equality of weight.
Ergo. Therefore.
Errata. Mistakes in printing.
Esto perpetua. May it last for ever.
Et cætera (&c.) And the rest.
Exit. He goes off; departure.
Exeunt omnes. They all go off.
Exempli gratia. (e. g.) For example.
Ex cathedra. From the chair.
Excerpta. Extracts from a work.
Ex concesso. From what has been conceded.
Ex nihilo nihil fit. From nothing nothing can come.
Ex officio. Officially.
Ex parte. On one side.
Ex pede Herculem. Judge of the whole from the specimen.
Experimentum crucis. A decisive experiment.
Ex tempore. Without premeditation.
Exuviæ. Cast skins of animals.
Fac simile. An exact copy.
Felo de se. A self-murderer; a suicide.
Festina lente. Hasten deliberately.
Fiat. Let it be done.
Fiat justitia, ruat cælum. Let justice be done though ruin ensue.
Genus irritabile vatum. The irritable race of poets.
Gratis. For nothing.
Hiatus. An opening or gap.
Humanum est errore. To err is human.
Ibidem. In the same place.
Idem. The same.
Id est (i.e.) That is.
Ignis fatuus. Will-o'-the-Wisp.
Imitatores, servum pecus. Servile herd of imitators.
Imperium in imperio. A government within a government.
Imprimatur. Let it be printed.
Imprimis. In the first place.
Impromptu. Without study.
In forma pauperis. As a pauper.
In limine. At the outset.
In propria persona. In person.
In re. In the matter or business of.
In statu quo. In the former state.
In terrorem. As a warning.
Interim. In the mean time.
Interregnum. The period between two reigns.
In toto. Entirely.
In vino veritas. There is truth in wine.
Ipse dixit. Mere assertion.
Ipso facto. By the fact itself.
Item. Also; an article in a bill or account.
Jure divino. By divine right.
Juro humano. By human law.
Lex talionis. The law of retaliation.
Labor omnia vincit. Labour overcomes every thing.

Lapsus linguæ. A slip of the tongue.
Litera scripta manet. What is written remains.
Locum tenens. A substitute or deputy.
Locus sigilli (L.S.) The place of the seal.
Magna charta (karta.) The great charter.
Manes. Departed spirits.
Maximum. The greatest.
Memento mori. Remember death.
Meum et tuum. Mine and thine.
Minimum. The least.
Multum in parvo. Much in little.
Ne cede malis. Yield not to misfortune.
Nemine contradicente (nem. con.) None opposing.
Ne plus ultra. No farther: the utmost point.
Ne quid nimis. Too much of one thing is good for nothing.
Ne sutor ultra crepidam. The shoemaker should not go beyond his last; persons should attend to their own business.
Nolens volens. Willing or unwilling.
Non compos. Out of one's senses.
Noscitur ex sociis. One is known by his associates.
Nota bene (N.B.) Mark well or attentively.
Omnibus. For all.
Onus probandi. The burden of proving.
Otium cum dignitate. Leisure or retirement with dignity.
Par nobile fratrum. O noble pair of brothers, (ironical.)
Passim. Every where.
Pendente lite. While the suit is pending.
Per cent (centum). Per hundred.
Per fas et nefas. Through right and wrong.
Per saltum. By a leap.
Per se. By itself.
Pinxit. Painted it.
Posse comitatus. The civil force of the county.
Post meridiem (P.M.) The afternoon.
Postulata. Things required.
Prima facie. At first view.
Primum mobile. The first mover; the main spring.
Principiis obsta. Oppose the beginnings of evil.
Pro et con. For and against.
Pro forma. For form's sake.
Pro hac vice. For this time.
Pro re nata. For the occasion.
Pro tempore. For the time.
Quantum libet. As much as is pleasing.
Quantum sufficit. As much as is sufficient.
Quid nunc? What now? A newsmonger.
Quid pro quo. One thing for another: tit for tat.
Quod erat demonstrandum, or Q.E.D. That which was to be proved.
Quondam. Formerly.
Quot homines, tot sententiæ. So many men, so many opinions.
Rara avis. A rare bird; a prodigy.
Requiescat in pace. May he rest in peace.
Re infecta. Without accomplishing the matter.
Respice finem. Look to the end.
Resurgam. I shall rise again.
Scandalum magnatum. Scandal against the nobility.
Scilicet (sc.) To wit.
Scire facias. Cause it to be known.
Semper Idem. Always the same.
Semper paratus. Always prepared.
Seriatim. In regular order.
Silent leges inter arma. Laws are silent in the midst of arms.
Sine die. Without fixing a day.
Sine qua non. Without which it cannot; an indispensable condition.
Statu quo. In the state in which it was.
Sua cuique voluptas. Every one has his own pleasure.
Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re. Gentle in manner, but firm in acting.
Sub pœna. Under a penalty.
Sub judice lis est. The cause is yet before the judge.
Sub silentio. In silence.
Sui generis. The only one of the kind; singular.
Suum cuique. Let every one have his own.
Summum bonum. The chief good.
Tedium vitæ. Weariness of life; ennui.
Tabula rasa. A smooth tablet; a mere blank.
Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis. Times change, and we change with them.
Tria juncta in uno. Three joined in one.
Toties quoties. As often as.
Ultimus (ult.) The last.
Una voce. With one voice.
Utile dulci. The useful with the agreeable.
Vacuum. An empty space.
Vade mecum. Come with me; a companion.
Væ victis. Woe to the vanquished.
Veni, vidi, vici. I came, I saw, I conquered.
Venienti occurite morbo. Meet the disease in the beginning.
Verbatim. Word for word.
Versus. Against.
Vestigia nulla retrorsum. There are no returning steps.
Vis. By the way of.
Vice versa. The reverse.
Vide. See; refer to.
Vide ut supra. See what is stated above.
Vi et armis. By main force.
Vis inertiæ. The force or property of inanimate matter.
Viva voce. Orally; by word of mouth.
Viz. (videlicet.) To wit.
Vox et præterea nihil. Voice (or sound) and nothing more.
VIVAT REGINA! LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

FRENCH AND OTHER FOREIGN WORDS AND PHRASES IN COMMON USE, EXPLAINED.

A-la-mode (ah-la-mode.) In the fashion.
Amateur (ahm-at-ehr). A virtuoso.
Apropos (ap-ro-po). To the purpose; by-the-bye.
Bagatelle (ba-ga-tel). A trifle.
Beau (bo). A gaily dressed person, an admirer.
Beau monde (bo mond). The gay or fashionable world.
Beaux esprits (boz-es-pree). Men of wit.
Belle (bell). A fine or fashionable lady; a beauty.
Belles lettres (bell-letr). Polite literature.
Billet doux (bil-le-doo). A love-letter.
Bon mot (bohn-mo) A smart or witty saying.
Bon-ton (bohn-tong). In high fashion.
Bon jour (bohn-zhur). Good day, or good morning.
Bon vivant (bohn-veev-ahn). A high liver; a choice spirit.
Boudoir (boo-dwaur) A cabinet, small closet, or private room.
Bravura (bra-voo-ra). Ital. A song of difficult execution; difficult, brilliant.
Bulletin (bool-le-taang). An official account of news; certificate of health.
Bureau (bu-ro). An office-desk.
Calibre (ca-lee-br). The capacity or compass of the mind or intellect.
Caoutchouc (coo-chook). Indian rubber.
Cap-a-pie (cap-ah-pee). From head to foot.
Carte blanche (cart-blansh). One's own terms.
Chamois (sham-wa) A species of goat.
Champetre (shahn-paytr). Rural.
Chaperon (shap-er-ong). A gentleman who protects or waits on a lady in a public assembly, (properly a kind of hood or cap worn by a knight).
Charlatan (shar-la-tan). A quack.
Chateau (shah-to). A castle.
Chef d'œuvre (shay-doovr). A masterpiece.
Chevaux de frise (shev-o-deh-frees.) A spiked fence.
Cicerone (shee-shai-ro-ny). Ital. A guide or conductor.
Ci-devant (see-de-vang). Formerly.
Clique (cleek). A party, or gang.
Comme il faut (com-ee-fo). As it should be.
Con amore (con a-mo-re). With love; gladly.
Connoiseur (con-a-sehr). A skilful judge.
Contour (con-tour). The outline of a figure.
Conversazione (con-ver-sat-ze-o-ny). Ital. A meeting of company.
Corps (core). A body of men.
Cortege (cor-teje). A train of attendants; a retinue.
Coup de grace (coo-dee-grass). The finishing stroke.
Coup de main (coo-de-mahng). A sudden and successful attack.
Coup d'œil (coo-deuil). A glance of the eye.
Debut (dee-boo) First appearance.
Denouement (dee-noo-mong). The winding up.
Dernier ressort (dairn-yair-ressor). The last shift or resource.
Depot (deh-po). A store or magazine.
Detour (deh-toor). A circuitous march.
Devoir (dev-waur.) Duty; respects.
Dieu et mon droit (Dieu-a-mon-drwau). God and my right.
Dishabille (dis-ah-beel). An undress.
Domicile (dom-e-seel). Abode.
Double entendre (doo-ble-on-tong-der). double meaning.
Douceur (doo-soor). A present or bribe.
Eclaircissement (ec-lair-cis-mong). An explanation.
Eclat (e-claw). Splendour; with applause.
Elite (ai-leet). Chosen; select.
Eleve (e-lave). A pupil.
Embonpoint (ahn-bon-pwawn). In good condition.
Encore (ahn-core). Again.
En masse (an-masse). In a mass or body.
En passant (an-pas-sang). In passing; by-the-bye.
Ennui (an-wee). Wearisomeness.
Entre nous (antr-noo). Between ourselves.
En-tree (an-tray). Entrance.
Envelope (ahn-v'lope). A cover for a letter.
Epaulette (ep-o-let) A shoulder knot.
Esprit de corps (espree-deh-core). The spirit of the body or party.
Estafette (es-tah-fet). An express.
Etiquette (et-e-ket) Ceremony.
Facade (fah-sahd). Front of a building.
Faux pas (fo-pah). A false step; misconduct.
Fete (fate). A feast or festival.
Feu de joie (feu-deh-zhwaw). A discharge of fire-arms as a rejoicing.
Fille de chambre (feel-de-shambr). A chamber-maid.
Finale (fee-nah-le). It. The end, the close.
Fracas (frah-cah). A squabble.
Gendarmes (jang-darm). Soldiers; police.
Gout (goo). Taste.
Hauteur (ho-tehr). Haughtiness.
Honi soit qui mal y pense (ho-nee-swaw-kee-mahl-e-pahns). Evil to him that evil thinks.
Hors de combat (hor-da-cohn-bah). Disabled.
Incognito. Incog; in disguise.
Jeu d'esprit (zheu-des-pree). Play of wit; a witticism.

Jeu de mots (sheu-de-mo). Play upon words.
Levee (lev-ay). A morning visit.
Liqueur (le-quehr.) A cordial.
Mal a propos (mal-ap-ro-po). Unseasonably, or unbecoming.
Mauvaise honte (mo-vais-hont). False or unbecoming modesty.
Mignonette (Min-yo-net). A sweet smelling flower.
Naivete (nah-eev-tay). Ingenuousness; simplicity.
Nom de guerre (nong-deh-gair). An assumed name.
Nonchalance (nohn-sha-lahnce). Coolness; indifference.
Nonpareil (nohn-par-el). Without an equal; matchless.
On dit (ohn dee). A flying report.
Outre (oo-tray). Extraordinary; eccentric.
Parole (par-ole). Word of honour.
Parterre (par-tare). A flower garden (level ground).
Patois (pat-waw). Provincialism.
Penchant (pahn-ahahn). A leading or inclination.
Perdu (per-doo). Lost; concealed through fear.
Petit maitre (petty-maytr). A small master; a fop.
Protege (pro-tay-jay). One that is patronised and protected.
Qui vive (kee-veev). Who goes there. On the alert.
Ragout (rah-goo). A highly-seasoned dish.
Rencontre (rahn-cohntr.) An unexpected meeting, an encounter.
Rendezvous (rahn-day-voo). The place of meeting.
Rouge (rooge). Red paint
Ruse de guerre (roos-deh-gair). A trick or stratagem of war.
Sang froid (sahn-frwaw). Coolness.
Sans (sang). Without.
Savant (sav-ang). A learned man.
Sobriquet (so-bre-kay). A nick-name.
Soi-disant (swaw-dee-zang). Self-styled; pretended.
Soiree (sway-ry). An evening party.
Souvenir (soov-neer). Remembrance.
Tapis (tap-ee). The carpet; "on the tapis," under consideration.
Tete-a-tete (tait-ah-tait). Head to head; a private conversation.
Tirade (tee-rad). A long invective speech.
Tout ensemble (too-tahn-sahnbl). The whole.
Valet de chambre (val-e-deh-shambr). A footman.
Vis-a-vis (vees-ah-vee). Face to face.
Vive le roi (veev-ler-waw). Long live the king.


CONTAINING
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EXAMPLE





